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2 airmen die in copter crash

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

In a dramatic and tragic training accident, an IAF Cobra attack helicopter broke apart and plummeted into the sea off the coast yesterday with its two-man crew.

A pilot in a second helicopter jumped into the sea to try to rescue the crew, but the two, including an IAF brigadier-general, remained missing and were presumed dead late last night.

OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliyahu grounded the IAF's entire fleet of Cobra helicopters as experts tried to figure out why the US-made attack chopper suddenly snapped in two. He also organized an internal inquiry into the accident, the second fatal IAF training incident in two weeks.

The missing airmen were identified as Brig.-Gen. Shmuel Eldar, 45, of Kibbutz Palmahim and commander of the IAF base at Palmahim, and Lt. Ilan Gur, 20, of Kibbutz Malkiya.

Eldar, a 25-year-veteran helicopter pilot, would be the most senior IAF pilot ever killed in training or in an operation.

Navy and Air Force crews swept the site of the crash for their bodies, and Ben-Eliyahu said the pilot would contiue until they are found.

The incident occurred yesterday morning at about 10:20. A pair of Cobras had set out for what was described as a "routine and simple" exercise off the coast of Netanya.

On their way back to base, Eldar reported vibrations in the tail of his Cobra as they descended from 1,070 meters to 250 meters.

"Eldar radioed that he was in control of the helicopter and planned to made an emergency landing," said a visibly shaken Ben-Eliyahu at a news conference at IAF headquarters yesterday.

Ben-Eliyahu said that Eldar said he was losing power and under those circumstances couldn't make a hovering landing on the beach. He was thus going to try to make it to Tel Aviv's Sde Dov for a landing on a runway.

Capt. Benny, commander of the second Cobra, said Eldar radioed to him he was positive he could land the Cobra despite the vibrations.

"Suddenly he spun severely toward the sea and the tail split off. The pieces hit the main rotor and it started to disintegrate and the body fell into the sea," said Benny, a reserve pilot. "I couldn't believe it was happening. I still don't believe it."

Benny took his craft down to about 2.5 meters above the sea and after a short deliberation it was decided that his copilot, Sec.-Lt. Assaf, would dive in to look for his fellow pilots. Assaf had completed a pilots' course with Gur just three months before.

"It was clear that it was going to take time until any rescuers would come, so I jumped in," Assaf said. "The water was full of oil and fuel and debris. I dove as far as I could, but I couldn't find anything."

Assaf searched for about 10 minutes with Benny hovering overhead as IAF and Navy rescue crews rushed to the site of the crash, just off the coast of Kibbutz Ga'ash. A fishing boat that had witnessed the crash showed up and pulled Assaf aboard. Benny flew back to base alone.

The inquiry is to be headed by a top IAF veteran, said Ben-Eliyahu. There is an audio tape and partial video tape of what happened. But the inquiry must figure out why it happened.

Ben-Eliyahu was confident that the reason for the unprecedented malfunction would be found. He said the IAF was in contact with the manufacturers of the Cobra.

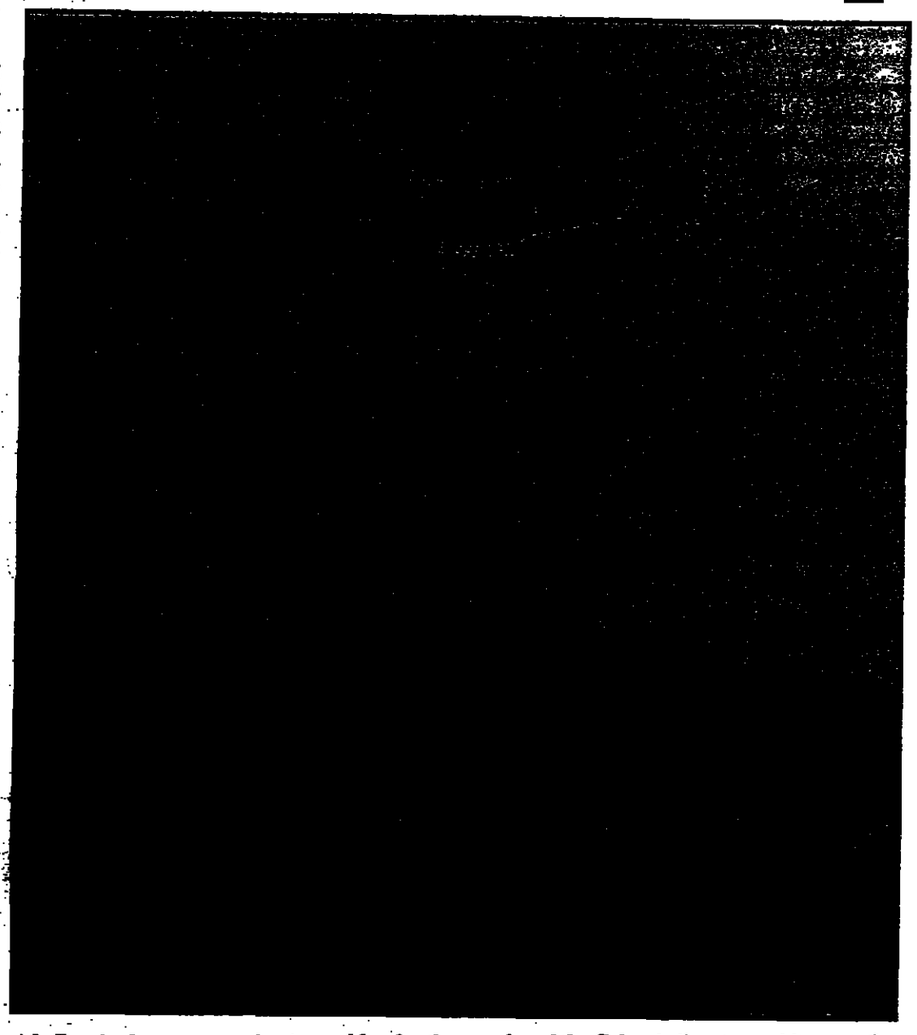
"We will try with the pilots, the flight crews, the technicians, the commanders to return as soon as possible to safe operational activity," Ben-Eliyahu said. "As painful as it is, we are determined to keep on alert to protect the skies of Israel and its soldiers and its residents."

Ben-Eliyahu defended the practice of senior IAF pilots participating in training exercises, saying it was a "code of behavior" to be honored.

He said that experienced pilots, even if they were base commanders like Eldar, are expected to help train younger pilots.

Asked if there was a chance that Eldar's Cobra could have been sabotaged, Ben-Eliyahu said the inquiry would examine all possibilities.

IAF loses top general, Page 2



A helicopter hovers over a boat searching for the remains of the Cobra helicopter and its crew that crashed off the coast yesterday. (Pavel Wolberg/Israel Sun)



Brig.-Gen. Shmuel Eldar



Lt. Ilan Gur

Needless missions?

ANALYSIS

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Poor Eitan Ben-Eliahu. His year-and-a-half in command of the air force will be remembered by the terrible accidents that have plagued it.

A few months after he took over, in the aura of the terrific surgical air war in Lebanon during Grapes of Wrath, the air force suffered its biggest disaster: last year's collision of two CH-53 transport helicopters which killed 73 servicemen.

Two weeks ago, an F-15 crashed on Mt. Eval, killing two aviators. It was no doubt the result of human error. But yesterday's crash was just as likely a case of a purely technical malfunction. Even the air force's most experienced helicopter pilot, Brig.-Gen. Shmuel Eldar, could not save himself.

Which raises the question, why should top IAF commanders continue to fly seemingly needless missions when their presence and experience, earned after decades of expensive training, is needed elsewhere?

Even Ben-Eliahu, eulogizing Eldar yesterday, spoke of how he was a major source of the knowledge and advice every air force commander needs when running such a large endeavor.

Ben-Eliahu defended the tradition of keeping top commanders behind the stick so that they can maintain their edge, but also so that they could pass on their knowledge.

Rafael Eitan was the last chief of general staff to parachute while in office. Since then, his successors have refrained from putting the nation at the risk of losing its top general in the name of tradition.

Perhaps the air force should adopt the same path of caution.

Shahak: Hebron Jews alienate soldiers

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Relations between soldiers in Hebron and the Jewish residents there are far from ideal, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said yesterday.

He was quoted as saying that "most of the soldiers are sympathetic to them when they arrive in Hebron, but their attitude is different when they leave."

15 Hebron Jews ignore police summons, Page 3

Terming the bullets fired from the Palestinian-controlled area of Hebron at the city's Jewish sector as a grave "escalation" of the situation, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu demanded that the Palestinian Authority act forcefully to prevent such incidents.

He also condemned the "pathetic actions" of members of the Jewish community there who went on a rampage in the Abu Snenon quarter Friday night, breaking the windows of homes and automobiles and committing other acts of vandalism.

According to a communique, he told the weekly cabinet meeting that "we cannot accept" such behavior, while noting that "the vast majority of the local Jewish community obeys the law and complies with IDF instructions."

Netanyahu said the security establishment will consider additional means to protect Hebron's Jews, but did not elaborate.

The Hebron situation dominated the ministers' discussion.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai gave his unequivocal backing to the IDF.

"The IDF's best soldiers and commanders are serving in Hebron," he said.

"The army is carrying out the correct operations and all of us are doing our best to restore life to normal there."

See SHAHAK, Page 3

CPI falls 0.1%

The consumer price index dropped unexpectedly by 0.1 percent last month after rising 0.3% in January, in what is seen as another sign of a slowdown in the economy. The figure was well below analysts' expectations. They had predicted a moderate rise of 0.2%-0.4%. During the last 12 months, prices rose 5.6%.

The Central Bureau of Statistics attributed the decline to the falling prices of vegetables, fruits, clothing, and shoes. The decline was partly offset by food and housing prices.

Industrialists said that the low inflation figure is another indicator of the "dramatic" slowdown in economic activity, a dangerous and ongoing appreciation of the shekel, and a decline of raw material prices abroad.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman welcomed the figure, saying, "It's good that residents will be paying less for their products and mortgages."

Full Report, Page 19

Willey accuses Clinton of lying in deposition

WASHINGTON (Reuters) – Former White House volunteer Kathleen Willey provided a graphic description of being groped outside the Oval Office by President Bill Clinton and accused him of lying under oath about it, in an interview broadcast yesterday.

The former White House volunteer's appearance on CBS's *60 Minutes* yesterday evening marked the first time a woman who worked at the White House has gone public and televised allegations that Clinton made improper sexual advances.

Robert Bennett, Clinton's private lawyer, said the president was "absolutely bewildered" by Willey's assertions and adamantly denies them.

"He [Clinton] cannot understand why this is being said," Bennett said on the CBS program.

A White House spokesman said he had no immediate comment.

Willey said that she felt taken advantage of by the president's "recklessness" and considered slapping his face, but thought, "I don't think you can slap the president of the United States like that." Later, Willey said, she was pressured by Bennett.

And she accused Linda Tripp, a pivotal figure in the sex scandal who told a reporter about the alleged Willey-Clinton encounter against Willey's wishes, of threatening revenge against her and "everyone else" in the White House.

In a transcript of the show released yesterday afternoon, CBS's Ed Bradley asked Willey specifically if Clinton was lying if he said under oath that he had not made a sexual advance to her.

Willey replied, "Yes."

Clinton had been asked by lawyers for Paula Jones – who has accused Clinton of a sexual advance when he was governor of Arkansas – about Willey's testimony that he took her hand and put it on his genitals.

"I emphatically deny it," Clinton said in a deposition made public on Friday by Jones's lawyers. "It did not happen."

He said that he hugged Willey and may have kissed her on the forehead in an effort to console her, but insisted the incident was not sexual.

Willey also said that she felt pressured by Bennett, who – she charged – suggested that she would need a criminal lawyer.

"The insinuation to me was that Mr. Bennett was implying that I was going to face some kind of a criminal charge for perjury," she said. She added that "I didn't and I don't" need a criminal lawyer.

Willey said she had not chosen to make Clinton's action public.

"It was just horrible behavior on the part of the president," she said. "And I did not think it was my place to make it public knowledge."

A few months after the incident, Willey said she had a conversation with Tripp, who had been transferred to the Pentagon from her job at the White House. Willey said that Tripp told her: "'You're here because the president wants you here. And they want me out of here because I know what happened.'"

Willey said that Tripp was "very upset, very bitter. And she ended the conversation by saying, 'I'm going to get you, and... everyone else in this place, before this is all over.'"

CBS reported that Tripp's lawyer denied she had said that she was out to get anyone.

500 former Latvian SS soldiers hold reunion

By BURTON FRIERSON

RIGA (Reuters) – About 500 former Latvian SS soldiers who fought with the Germans during World War II gathered yesterday for a controversial reunion of their unit to mark its 55th anniversary.

The song-filled gathering of the greying veterans of the Latvian *Legion* will be followed today by a church service, a procession through Riga's old town, and flower laying at the Freedom Monument and soldiers' cemetery.

The events have been blasted by groups who see them as an insult to those who suffered Nazi atrocities, and local Russian organizations have asked President Guntis Ulmanis to have today's procession banned.

Historians and Nazi hunters say that while membership in the legion does not necessarily amount to being guilty of war crimes, some units that were added to it near the end of the war had committed atrocities.

"They were fighting in an organization ... whose goal was for the Third Reich to win the war," said Efraim Zuroff, director of the Jerusalem office of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

"Many of them were members of security organizations who took part in the murder of Jews prior to joining the Latvian Legion," Zuroff said.

Over 100,000 Latvians were drafted by the Nazis or joined the Latvian Legion during the German occupation.

Critics of the gatherings say Latvia, which quit the former Soviet Union in 1991, should find new heroes, untainted by either the Soviet or Nazi regimes.

But the former members of the legion see their fight on the Russian front as national service, after tens of thousands of Latvians and other Balts were shipped to Siberia in the early days of the Soviet era.

"We were not fighting for the Germans, we were fighting against the Soviets," said Valentins Silamikelis, a former private in the Latvian Legion.

The veterans say they were drafted illegally and that the Germans lied when they called the legion a voluntary SS unit.

After the war the allies confirmed this and the US said membership in the legion was not an obstacle to immigration for the thousands of Latvians in refugee camps throughout Europe.

Historians say this confused the legion's status, since it basically amnestied members of security squads that had killed Jews and were brought into the legion in its final days.

"From my perspective it looks like a tragic situation," said Andrew Ezergailis, a professor of history at Ithaca College in New York, who has researched the legion. "They don't want to recognize it as having participated in an ironic turn of events."

Latvia's government has refused to participate in the commemoration, a move the veterans said is a disgrace.

"I would hope that 50 years after the war the government would start learning the country's history and not hiding their heads in sand like ostriches," said Aleksandrs Kalvans, deputy head of Daugavas Vanagi, a Latvian veterans' organization.

Riga's city government decided to prohibit a demonstration against today's march.

'Jerusalem Post' turns electronic matchmaker

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Jerusalem Post and a major Jewish Internet company in the US this morning launched a joint matchmaking and pen pal service over the Web.

The Jerusalem Post Personals eliminates potentially embarrassing and very expensive contacts with human matchmaking agencies and allows individuals to act as their own matchmaker.

They fill out an on-line personal profile, which is posted free in the database, and another with the characteristics sought in a potential match or friend.

A special computerized system sifts the self-described characteristics of over 7,000 subscribers in Israel and around the world and automatically selects those that come within the range of the requested match.

Individuals who are listed can be contacted only by paying members. Membership costs $9.95 a month.

The service is accessible at http://www.jpostpersonals.com or by clicking a button on *The Jerusalem Post*'s Internet Edition, which is located at http://www.jpost.co.il or http://www.jpost.com.

A feature about the new service will appear on next Sunday's Science & Technology Page.

NEWS

in brief

Finnish chief of staff arrives

The Finnish Chief of General Staff Gen. Gusfav Hugglund arrives today for a three-day visit. He is the guest of his Israeli counterpart, Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, but also will be meeting with Minister of Defense Yitzhak Mordechai.

Finland supplies military observers to the UNTSO forces on the Golan Heights and the head of Finland's Defense Ministry's policy desk will be accompanying Hugglund, the army said.

Huggland's visit comes on the heels of a week-long visit to Israel by India's chief of army staff. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Austria and Israel disagree on Arafat's title

Austria and Israel are at loggerheads over Wednesday's visit by Chancellor Viktor Klima and therefore will not issue a joint communique at its conclusion. The issue in dispute is whether to refer to Yasser Arafat as president or chairman of the Palestinian Authority.

Israel insists that Arafat be defined as chairman, but Austria wants him referred to as president. As a result, two separate communiques will be published – one in Jerusalem by Israel and one in Gaza by the PA.

Klima is due to meet Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and other government leaders on Thursday and then to proceed to Gaza for talks with Arafat on Friday. *Jay Bushinsky*

Jordan's legislators protest visit to Israel

Sixteen opposition Jordanian legislators walked out of a parliamentary debate yesterday in protest against a visit by pro-government members to Israel. The legislators told reporters they withdrew after House Speaker Saad Srour refused to allow Nashaat Hamarneh, a leading leftist member, to criticize last Tuesday's visit. Srour and six legislators accompanied Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan when he went to Tel Aviv, where he held talks with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. *AP*

IAF loses top general

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Brig.-Gen. Shmuel Eldar would be the highest ranking IAF pilot ever to be killed in either training or an operation. He is one of the most experienced helicopter pilots in the history of the IAF. In this capacity he was appointed to the Ivry Commission which examined the February 4, 1997, collision between two CH-53 transport helicopters which killed 73 servicemen.

For the past three years Eldar, 45, had been the commander of the Palmahim base, which, according to *Jane's World Air Forces*, has two Cobra squadrons, a squadron of Blackhawk helicopters, and two squadrons of UAVs.

Before he took over Palmahim, Eldar was deputy commander of the large Tel Nof Air Base. A helicopter pilot from 1973 when he earned his wings, Eldar has flown all the helicopters used by the IAF. He commanded three different types of squadrons and was certainly a rising star in the IAF.

"He was one of the most professional pilots, quiet, who took part in a long list of daring and clandestine missions [and] I am not sure any of them will ever be revealed," OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliyahu said of Eldar.

Eldar has a wife and four children.

Ilan Gur, a sweet child

Lt. Ilan Gur, 20, received his pilots' wings just three months ago and was flying yesterday as part of his advanced training. Gur was from Kibbutz Malkiya and the youngest of five children.

"He was a sweet child," said the kibbutz secretary. "The last son of elderly parents. He was quiet, modest, a sweet child.

"A terrible tragedy."

Lt. Assaf, copilot of the other Cobra participating in the exercise, witnessed the crash and jumped into the sea to try to save Gur. He also described Gur as a "quiet kid."

"We went through training together. He was one of the best there is," Assaf said. *A.O.*



A Cobra attack helicopter similar to the one that crashed yesterday.

Previous chopper crashes

The worst IAF helicopter accidents over the past two decades:

- February 4, 1987 – Two CH-53s collide over Kibbutz She'ar Yashuv while ferrying combat troops to Lebanon. All 73 aboard are killed in the worst air accident in the history of the IAF.
- September 17, 1996 – Three killed when a Navy Dolphin crashes off of Rosh Hanikra. The cause of the crash was never determined. One of the three bodies has never been found.
- March 31, 1996 – Seven killed when a Yasur 2000 crashes in the Judean Desert while practicing clandestine troop insertion. The helicopter completely burned and IAF investigators have never determined if it was a technical malfunction or human error. Two survived the crash.
- December 1994 – A CH-53 crashes into Palmahim beach while trying to lift a heavy cargo. Three crewmen die.
- January 12, 1994 – OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Nehemia Tamari and three other officers die when their helicopter crashes in fog near the command landing pad at headquarters in northern Jerusalem.
- July 1, 1992 – Sr.-Sgt.-Maj. Gil Rosenthal is killed when a helicopter crashes into the sea off Rosh Hanikra during a rescue drill.
- April 25, 1990 – Seven airmen are killed when two CH-53s collide near Ofra during a training exercise.
- December 30, 1988 – Pilot dies when his Yasur 2000 crashes during a border-marking mission north of Eilat.
- September 9, 1984 – Five soldiers die when a Bell 212 crashes near Beit She'an.
- May 10, 1977 – A CH-53 slams into a hill during a night training exercise near Jericho, killing all 54 on board.

Arieh O'Sullivan

Cobra, the backbone of air attacks

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The US-made Cobra is an air attack workhorse. Heavily equipped with a deadly array of conventional, "low-tech" arms, it has seen action combatting Palestinian and Hizbullah gunmen in Lebanon for over a dozen years.

The IAF has 46 Cobras of the Q and S models, according to *The Middle East Military Balance* put out by Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies.

But it is assumed that the number of operating Cobras is less, due to accidents.

In 1994 Israel received 10 of the helicopters as a gift from the US as the peace process was moving forward. These were used models but they were upgraded.

The Cobra is a narrow, ugly craft about as wide as a refrigerator, with one pilot sitting behind and above the other. The Cobra is manufactured by Bell. The IAF version is equipped with a 30-caliber mini-gun made by General Electric. It also has a 40-mm. grenade launcher and is capable of carrying eight anti-tank TOW missiles.

The Cobra has two rocket launchers, each one with 19 70-mm. rockets. The Israeli versions are not equipped with lasers, so they cannot fire Hellfire missiles.

Its range is about 570 kilometers. It flies at 149 knots and reaches a height of 11,000 feet.

The Cobras were first brought here in 1979 and saw action in the 1982 Lebanon War, where one was shot down and its two-man crew was killed.

Cobras have had malfunctions in the past, but most of the time the pilots have been able to land them safely. About a decade ago, one crashed in the Kinneret, but its pilots survived. The craft was eventually pulled out and refurbished.

Expert: We can leave Lebanon without Syria

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Israel can withdraw from Lebanon without linking it to the Golan Heights, according to Reuven Merhav, a former director-general of the Foreign Ministry and senior Mossad officer.

"The Taif Accords between Damascus and Beirut enable Israel to get out of Lebanon unilaterally," Merhav said. "I believe that as soon as Israel leaves Lebanon, nobody will remember why we stayed there so long and the Hizbullah will collapse."

He noted that it is Israel, rather than Syria, which is linking the Golan issue with withdrawal from Lebanon. "We have owed ourselves the prize of leaving Lebanon for a long time," he added.

Merhav noted that nothing has really changed since the Syrians and Lebanese reached the Saudi-brokered Taif Accords at the end of 1989. According to this agreement, he said, the Lebanese Army together with UN forces would take over the area vacated by Israel. The accords also call for implementing Security Council Resolution 425 and returning to the 1949 cease-fire lines.

In addition, Syria promised not to do anything to undermine Lebanon's territorial integrity.

"Thus without a formal agreement, on the basis of Lebanon's decision backed by Syria and supported by the Americans, plus Resolution 425 and the understandings reached after Operation Grapes of Wrath, it is possible to withdraw from Lebanon without tying it to the Golan," said Merhav.

Commenting on objections to a withdrawal, he said, "We've entered a state of inertia, we didn't catch ourselves in time. I call it a march of follies. The government must take the initiative to act forcefully [against terrorists], but for that we don't have to be in Lebanon."

The Lebanese question

ANALYSIS

By DAVID RUDGE

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon's proposal for a phased, unilateral IDF withdrawal from south Lebanon has the same aim, ostensibly, as the pullout under the auspices of UN Security Council Resolution 425 which the prime minister suggested. Both plans aim to drag the IDF out of the Lebanese quagmire.

What is not clear is whether the 425-with-security-guarantees option has even a moderate chance of success, given Syria's outright opposition to it. On the other hand, there is no certainty that a gradual pullout, accompanied by threats of the dire consequences of terror attacks from Lebanon after a withdrawal, would ultimately stop the bloodshed.

Under Sharon's proposal, the IDF would vacate a designated area unilaterally and if peace and quiet reign there, subsequent withdrawals would follow and the army would eventually redeploy on the Israeli side of the international border.

According to reports of Sharon's plan, the IDF would reserve the right to reenter the vacated area in a limited ground operation if hostilities continued from there.

Warnings of severe retribution would be made beforehand. The retribution also would cover South Lebanese Army soldiers and residents of the security zone who have cooperated with Israel.

The Lebanese government would be held totally responsible for ensuring peace and quiet in south Lebanon and preventing any cross-border hostilities.

Not complying with these new rules of the game, according to the Sharon plan, would leave Israel with the justification and international legitimization for striking at Lebanon's military and economic infrastructure.

The 425 option relies on a clause in the Security Council resolution which calls for the restoration of international peace and security in south Lebanon in the event of an IDF withdrawal. This leaves the door open for the possibility of reaching an unwritten arrangement with Lebanon, either brokered through the UN or international mediation, to ensure peace and security in south Lebanon and, by definition, along the international border.

Under the 425 proposal, supported by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, the Lebanese Army would move into the areas vacated by the IDF. The Lebanese Army, supported by an expanded UNIFIL and with the backing of the international community, would then be responsible for ensuring the peace and security stipulated by resolution 425.

Mordechai has declared that Israel is not seeking a separate peace accord with Lebanon, simply arrangements that would guarantee the security of northern communities, as well as the safety and well-being of SLA soldiers and their families. He has also made it clear that the initiative is not an attempt to bypass Syria and that if implemented successfully it would bolster peace negotiations between the two countries.

SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad and his staff, as well as civilian administrators in the security zone, support the 425 proposal. There also have been indications of a desire by members of the Lebanese government to respond positively – were it not for the outright opposition of Syria.

Israel is now seeking the support and active intervention of the US, as well as France and the UN, for its initiative. Proponents believe that with the help of the US and the international community, unity of purpose and patience, Syria can be persuaded to accept the 425 proposal.

Opponents, including perhaps Sharon himself, who is more of a political rival to Mordechai than an ally, apparently believe it is merely a public-relations exercise.

The Sharon plan, on the other hand, does not appear to contain any diplomatic initiative whatsoever. It relies almost entirely on deterrence in the form of a threat to use devastating force in the event of any kind of cross-border terror attack after or during the phased IDF withdrawal.

Opponents of Sharon's proposal say it is a recipe for potential conflagration and all-out war with Syria. This would be even more costly in terms of lives and bloodshed than the present situation, in which the fighting is confined to the south Lebanese battleground and subject to the constraints of the Grapes of Wrath understandings. Furthermore, they maintain that any form of unilateral withdrawal without security guarantees would be viewed by Israel's allies in south Lebanon as an act of abandonment. This in turn could quickly bring about the collapse of the SLA and the security zone itself, with all the potentially damaging consequences.

Uri Lubrani, the government's veteran coordinator on Lebanon, stressed yesterday that there is a good chance for the 425 option to succeed, and that any other initiatives were an interference.

Knesset panel to discuss south Lebanon pullout

By LIAT COLLINS

The different proposals for a possible IDF withdrawal from Lebanon are expected to be discussed today by the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, which is to be addressed by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

The suggestions being bandied around yesterday drew a mixed response in political circles with strong opposition to withdrawal from Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid while National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon continued to promote his proposal for a staggered pullback with a test period at each stage.

Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) said yesterday he supports Sharon's staggered pullback plan and said the key to its success is to make those who stand behind the attacks — such as Syria and Lebanon — pay the price now for attacks.

"It is a mistake to declare at this stage that Israel will demand they pay the price in the future if soldiers or civilians are attacked, because it implies Israel is not firm on punishing attacks now and this detracts from the deterrence factor," Landau said.

He said Israel should not tie a Lebanon agreement to an agreement with the Syrians, which would reward Damascus for being behind the attacks and possibly involve the Golan Heights.

Sarid, on the other hand, called on all the movements that support a withdrawal to concentrate on putting pressure on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to resume the negotiations with Syria.

"All the good intentions of a unilateral withdrawal will lead to another war there instead," said Sarid. "I really don't like the fact that the key to a unilateral withdrawal in Lebanon is Syria but that's the situation. It holds the key."

Reuters adds:

Syrian President Hafez Assad and his Lebanese counterpart Elias Hrawi affirmed during their summit meeting in Damascus that there is a link between the Syrian and Lebanese tracks in peace talks with Israel.

"President Assad affirmed that Syria will support Lebanon in all that it sees as its national interest, the interest of its stability, reconstruction, liberation of its lands and the preservation of its dignity," presidential spokesman Joubran Kourieh said.

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Cook drops Husseini escort to Har Homa

By JAY BUSHINSKY

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's one-day visit here tomorrow generated acrimony and displeasure in government circles yesterday, despite his office's announcement that the Palestinian Authority's Faisal Husseini will not escort him to Har Homa in southeastern Jerusalem.

A senior official said the very fact that Cook intends to go to Har Homa is "a provocation that supports the Palestinian claim to part of Jerusalem even before the final-status talks begin."

The source also contended that a tour of this kind "is something that never has been done by any other visiting official." He said he doubted that a similar act would be performed anywhere else in the world.

Survivors group wants Cook to help obtain Jewish assets in Britain, Page 5

Har Homa is situated on the former Jordanian side of the pre-1967 armistice line that divided Jerusalem. Work is under way to eventually build thousands of home on the site.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu expects to confer with Cook despite the controversy.

Political sources denied that a formal protest was submitted by Israel to the British authorities regarding Cook's original intention to ask Husseini to accompany him to Har Homa.

They said the British "simply were asked" not to go ahead with this, because "Israel was not comfortable with the idea."

One reason given was that it would violate the Oslo Accords, presumably because a PA official would be involved in a state visit to Jerusalem.

Not all government officials had a problem with Cook touring the site.

"If Cook wants to get a personal impression of Har Homa, that is all right," one source said. "But to go there with Husseini creates political problems."

The Women in Green plan to stage a demonstration at Har Homa when Cook visits.

15 Hebron Jews ignore police summons

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Fifteen Jewish residents of Hebron yesterday failed to comply with a police summons asking them to appear at the local station for questioning about the disturbances at the Abu Sneineh quarter on Friday night. Hebron police chief Dep.-Cmdr. Ya'acov Ish Yemini warned that those who fail to comply will be arrested.

Meanwhile, violence subsided in Judea and Samaria yesterday. There were sporadic reports of stonethrowing during the day. Last night, an Israeli notified military authorities that shots were fired at his car near Tekoa, and he apparently fired back in response.

A few hours later, Palestinian sources said a Palestinian was shot near Tekoa by IDF forces. The sources said Mohammed Ammor was hit by a rubber bullet and was undergoing surgery at a Bethlehem hospital. The IDF Spokesman said last night shots had not been fired by security forces in the area during the evening.

Palestinians also said one Palestinian was injured in Jelazoun when border police fired rubber bullets at stone throwers.

Hebron Jewish community spokesman Noam Arnon said the community condemned all violence and charged that some of the settlers guilty of provocation and violence were not from Hebron. Calling the incident a spontaneous reaction, Arnon said settlers decided to enter the Arab area in response to the shooting incidents directed at the Jewish homes last week, the third of which occurred on Friday afternoon.

The Hebron Jewish community charged that the IDF is not doing enough to protect it.

Their protest sparked an outbreak of violence in which one soldier, two border policemen, and some 20 Palestinians, including eight journalists, were injured. Arnon said that a clause in the Hebron Accord specifies that Jews are allowed to enter H1.

The incident sparked off an array of reactions from both the Palestinian journalists and Israelis. Palestinians denied claims by the IDF that they were filming in the middle of a rioting mob and claimed that the IDF knew they were there and shot them on purpose.

Reuters cameraman Mazen Dana said he was hit in the shoulder by a rubber bullet when he ran to assist his colleague Nael Shiyoukhi, who had been shot in the head, abdomen, and leg when he was lying on the ground. Mazen said that the journalists yelled out to the IDF soldiers that they were from the press. "We shouted to them in Hebrew, English, and Arabic, but they went on shooting," he charged.

Mazen said some of his colleagues had said they would think twice before filming clashes especially when IDF soldiers are involved.

"This time it was a rubber bullet, but next time it could be a live one," he said, adding that the journalists had filed a complaint with the police.

Photographer Khaled Zighari, who was injured when a rioter threw a stone at his head during clashes in Hebron last Thursday, directed his anger at the Israeli media. "Last week when I was injured by a rock, my photo appeared in the local press and I was portrayed as a victim of the rioting in Hebron."

Zighari said that since 1993, he has been shot 15 times by soldiers using rubber bullets and live ammunition, but no one talked about his injuries then or even offered assistance.

Because they feel like moving targets when covering news in areas where IDF soldiers are present, Zhigari said the Palestinians have set up a support system and film each other when injured by soldiers to use the footage for evidence against the soldiers' activities.

Meanwhile, Palestinians in Hebron woke up yesterday morning to discover that 24 car windows had been smashed during the night. The right-wing Committee for Road Safety claimed responsibility, saying that it was in response to the shots fired at the Jewish community.



Soldiers guarding Beit Hadassah in Hebron yesterday look for pictures of Saturday's unrest in an Arabic-language newspaper. (AP)

PALESTINIAN PRESS REVIEW

By Michal Sela

Reaction to killing

The killing of three Palestinians at the Tarkumiya checkpoint naturally occupied the Palestinian newspapers, which published detailed reports about the incident, the families of the victims, the funerals and condemnations of Israeli conduct by various political leaders and organizations.

"The Hebron Massacre – Thirst for Blood," was the headline of *al-Hayat al-Jadida*'s editorial the morning after the incident. Security is mainly a Palestinian problem, according to the newspaper. The tearful words by Israel's "monopoly-addicted" government about peace and security can not explain what happened, the words only "force our people to throw away the option of coexistence."

"I send a message to Prime Minister [Binyamin] Netanyahu," *al-Hayat al-Jadida* publisher Nabil Amru writes. "You reap what you have sown, and you have sown hatred. The seeds of hatred do not bear anything but fruits of hatred."

Referring to Netanyahu's criticism of Palestinian political writing, Amru suggest that "you should pay attention to the meaning of mobilizing bullets and death ... at the Tarkumiya checkpoint, which peace meant to be the beginning of a safe-passage and spearhead of Israeli-Palestinian coordination."

The editorial in *al-Quds* criticizes Israelis for blaming Palestinian violence on the Palestinian education system. They seem to have forgotten the values on which Israeli soldiers are raised, which give Palestinian life lesser value than Jewish life, *al-Quds* editorializes. "It was assumed that after signing peace with the Palestinians and two other Arab states ... these biased values should be changed." The Tarkumiya incident proves that the notion of just peace has not yet penetrated into the minds of a wide range of Israelis, the newspaper says.

PLC celebrates birthday

The Palestinian Legislative Council last week reelected the speaker of the house, Ahmed Qreia. Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's speech opening the council's third year in session was quoted in full by many newspapers.

At its third birthday, the council – as an institution and its members as individuals – has not yet met expectations, Amru writes in *al-Hayat al-Jadida*. It has not yet fulfilled its role as supervisor and comptroller of the executive authority.

Quite a few council members do not have the necessary qualifications and do not know the art of politics, Amru continues. Furthermore, those who were able to express their criticism have shown no ability to change the government's malfunctioning.

With Fatah always at the top, it is difficult to create the needed changes, Hassan Kashef complains in *al-Hayat al-Jadida*. The problem is not the political affiliation, but the lack of criticism and the will to create changes, Kashef writes, adding, "Change is still the demand of the majority of council members of all colors, be it Fatah, the Islamic Movement or the independent members."

Indirectly referring to the executive's failure to affirm the council's legislation, Kashef warns that popular trust and confidence is running out and being replaced by "despair and bitter frustration."

Barak's statement

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak's statement, that had he been a Palestinian, he probably would have joined a terrorist organization, was the subject of Jalal Rifa'i's cartoon in *al-Hayat al-Jadida*. Rifa'i depicted National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir and the image of a religious settler saying, "You may join us, we are terrorists."

Atta Qaimari, writing in *al-Quds*, reassured the Israelis, that given the oppressive daily life of the Palestinians, no one needs Barak's encouragement to join a resistance organization.

"Nevertheless, this declaration arouses a good feeling, that a person with Barak's 30 years of military experience has the nobility and greatness to recognize our humanity. This humanization of the conflict may ... open the road to a historical dialogue ... in which each side understands the motives of the other and internalizes its existence."

An attitude such as Barak's might, according to Qaimari, change the center of gravity, which now stresses only Israeli security, to understanding the need to put an end to the injustice inflicted upon the Palestinians.

"With his declaration, Barak has stepped onto a new road to solving the conflict. A road which may turn him into a real partner in the dialogue, in order to reach a settlement which is more just."

The reason for the fierce criticism of Barak is, according to Ali Khalili of *al-Quds*, "the absolute negation of the other, despite the fact that Israel signed an agreement in which the Israelis are supposed to deal with the Palestinians as equals." Suggesting that the Israelis too underwent a phase of acting through such organizations, Khalili claims that "they refuse to accept anything which resembles them," because it means "the loss of their uniqueness, this is called racism."

Khalili ironically asks, "Has not the four years since the signing of the agreement changed anything ... in the Israeli vocabulary?"

The refugee situation

The Palestinian refugees are an issue which is never forgotten and occasionally raised in public debate. Two separate meetings took place last week – one in Jabalya, north of Gaza, one in Balata, near Nablus – and they were widely reported. Both meetings discussed UNRWA's decision to raise fees for medical services and other daily-life difficulties, the papers reported.

In a feature story in *al-Quds*, Jamal Majayda described the daily life of Umm Muhammad, a woman who left her home in Ashkelon believing that her trip to what later became a permanent village-camp in El-Bureij was not meant to last more than several days. The story cites UNRWA 1996 statistics, according to which the number of Palestinian refugees has risen to 3.3 million.

PA official accuses US of torpedoing peace process

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH, MOHAMMED NAJIB, and news agencies

Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour yesterday accused the US of destroying the peace process and said that the Palestinians trust the European Union because it has a better understanding of the Oslo Accords.

Asfour said that US officials are biased toward Israel. Asfour, one of the original negotiators of the Oslo Accords, claimed that since the US had no part in drawing up the accords, US officials are trying to torpedo them and create a new peace agreement. He accused US envoy Dennis Ross of a waging a vendetta against the Oslo Accords.

Meanwhile, Palestinian Authority negotiator Nabil Shaath said he would like to see a joint US and European proposal that will push the process forward.

As Islamic foreign ministers met in Doha, Qatar yesterday to discuss the peace process, Hamas called on the PA to release all activists currently held in Palestinian jails, noting Israel had released the paratroopers involved in the killing of Palestinian workers at the Tarkumiya junction last Tuesday.

Addressing the opening session of the foreign ministers meeting, PA Chairman Yasser Arafat warned that "the peace of the brave signed in the past is in jeopardy and may be uttering its last breath," because of Israel's refusal to implement the accords.

Arafat said there is no progress being made in the negotiations and called on the Islamic and Arab world to unite and rescue the process.

Qatar's Emir Sheikh Hamad al-Thani said in his opening speech that peace in the Middle East "should receive our attention primarily due to the threats the stalled peace process poses to the security and stability of the region."

He blamed Israel for the current breakdown in negotiations, saying it had failed to implement its commitments and disregarded international decisions.

SHAHAK

Continued from Page 1

Several ministers criticized the arrest of the soldiers who fired at a van carrying Palestinian laborers when it careened into a checkpoint near Tarkumiya last week.

Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom said the soldiers acted in accordance with specified procedures, and thus it was wrong to arrest them.

"Afterward, we should not be surprised at troops who adopt a 'don't give a damn' attitude toward their assignments," he said.

Yahalom also was dissatisfied with the way the IDF dealt with the outbursts of gunfire at Jewish homes in Hebron.

Science Minister Michael Eitan said Shahak and police Insp.-Gen. Yehuda Wilk should train their personnel serving in Hebron to exercise self-restraint "even when the [Jewish] residents stage protests."

"It is true that there are extremist elements in Hebron who want to torpedo the peace process at any price, even if the price entails harming themselves or the general population," he said, referring to Hebron's Jews. "But they are a negligible minority of the population."

Eitan said it is essential to understand the protests of Jews whose homes are "in the gun sights of Arab terrorists and who are the targets of the deadly bullets being fired at them."

Margot Dudkevitch adds:

Hebron settlers were outraged at Shahak's remarks and said that soldiers serving in Hebron are received warmly by the community and are on good terms with them.

Their protest sparked an outbreak of violence in which one soldier, two border policemen, and some 20 Palestinians, including eight journalists, were injured. Arnon said that a clause in the Hebron Accord specifies that Jews are allowed to enter H1.

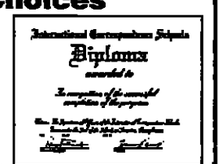
Spokesman Noam Arnon said scores of soldiers had sent letters to the community thanking it for the warm reception they received. Just two weeks ago, Arnon said, paratroopers who had finished their stint in Hebron gave the community a gift in appreciation of its kindness.

"No other community in Israel looks after the soldiers, bakes cakes for them, and treats them so warmly as our community does," Arnon said.

Aharon Domb, director-general of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza said Mordechai should reprimand Shahak.

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Jordan raps Sharon over Mashaal threats

Jordan yesterday strongly protested National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon's comment that Israel would try again to kill Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal, officials said.

They said the protest was conveyed by Acting Foreign Minister Talal Saatan Hassan to Ambassador Oded Eran. "Jordan conveyed to the Israeli ambassador its strong and unequivocal rejection of these statements," one official said.

Sharon, who helped secure the release of the two agents captured in Jordan in last year's bungled bid to kill Mashaal last year, said on Saturday he had informed Jordan's King Hussein at the time that Israel intended to finish the job.

"I said, 'You should know that we will liquidate Mashaal. I can tell you that we won't do it on your soil,'" Sharon told Channel 2.

Eran was told Amman considers an attack on any of its citizens, regardless of where it takes place, as targeting its own stability.

"Jordan has expressed to Israel again its total rejection of any attack on any of its citizens whether inside or outside Jordan and considers such an attack a violation of its own security," a Jordanian official said.

Meanwhile, Hamas vowed that Israel would pay a high price if it went ahead with Sharon's pledge.

Abdel-Aziz Rantissi, a senior Hamas official in Gaza, reminded Israel that the group had launched a deadly wave of suicide attacks after the assassination of its master bombmaker, Yihye Ayyash, in January 1996.

"If they assassinate Mashaal it will cost them a very dear price and they will regret it for the rest of their lives," Rantissi told Reuters.

Cabinet secretary Dan Naveh declined to comment directly on whether his government had taken any decision about Mashaal.

"I know one thing, the government has a policy which the prime minister is leading without compromise to fight terror, to fight the terrorist organizations, and to fight the heads of the terrorist organizations," Naveh said. "This war will continue in every place and every time."

A Palestinian Authority official condemned Sharon's declaration.

"The appropriate response to Sharon's remarks is to boycott him and to stop any Arab or Palestinian contacts with him," said Ahmed Abdel-Rahman, secretary-general of the Palestinian cabinet. In Cairo, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said Sharon's threat to kill Mashaal amounted to state terrorism. (Reuters)

Halevy approved as head of Mossad

By JAY BUSHINSKY and news agencies

The government approved Ephraim Halevy as the Mossad's new director yesterday and let Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu decide when the appointment will go into effect.

Halevy has been serving for the past two years as Israel's envoy to the European Union. Based in Brussels, he dealt with bilateral economic relations and coordinated the EU's Middle East peace initiative in conjunction with its special emissary, Spain's Miguel Moratinos.

According to official sources, it will take "several weeks" until Halevy completes the transition from Brussels to Mossad headquarters. He will be joined there by his newly-appointed deputy, Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Aviv Shir-On, meanwhile, declined to comment about a report published in London's *Sunday Times* that said three Mossad agents were caught by Scotland Yard attempting to bug the home of a prominent Moslem activist in London.

"We do not react to everything that appears in the news media," Shir-On said.

Netanyahu's communications director David Bar-Illan called the report "baseless and a total fabrication."

According to the report, the



Ephraim Halevy (Gideon Marcowitz)

agents were forced to abort the mission after arousing suspicion and fled to Israel the same day.

A senior Mossad source told the *Sunday Times* the operation was part of an attempt to monitor the activities of Islamic terrorist organizations in seven European cities last month.

It was mounted at short notice in the run-up to what Israel expected to be a new Gulf war as American and British forces prepared to attack Iraq. The Israelis believed the deaths of civilians in Iraq would provoke reprisals by Islamic groups in Europe.

According to the report, the failure of the operation came a few days before the arrests of four Mossad agents near Bern, the Swiss capital, as they prepared to install a listening device at the home of Abdullah Zein, a Shi'ite Moslem from southern Lebanon.

They were members of the same unit as those in London.

The report, quoting intelligence sources said that Moslem activists in Paris, Rome, Athens, Madrid and Geneva were targeted for bugging as well as those in London and Bern.

Most of the other missions were successful, and the Mossad's London target is understood to have remained unaware of the agents' attempt to eavesdrop on his conversations.

A Downing Street spokesman told the *Sunday Times* it had no knowledge of the Mossad operation. Scotland Yard said there was no record of anyone having been detained or deported on suspicion of planting bugs or any kind of espionage last month.



Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein (right) greets some of the Falash Mura who arrived at the Givat Hamatos mobile home site yesterday. (Yitzhak Elharar/Scoop 80)

Falash Mura families arrive in capital

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

After waiting as much as seven years for their chance, some 200 Falash Mura families realized a lifelong dream last night when they arrived in Jerusalem.

"This is a holiday for us," Moshe Bahta, the director of the United Ethiopian Jewish Association, said yesterday just prior to their arrival.

"We want to thank the Jerusalem Municipality for accepting these immigrants. I'm very happy they were convinced, and are absorbing them."

The newcomers' arrival at the capital's Givat Hamatos caravan site, near Gilo, marked another step in the government's program launched last summer to bring 3,000 of the Falash Mura, who had been living in a transit camp in Addis Ababa, to Israel within a year.

While some 1,500 have already arrived, most of whom are at the Hatzrat Yassaf camp near Acre, the Absorption Ministry had a tough time convincing local authorities to accept the others.

Last night at Givat Hamatos, Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein told Channel 1 that many communities across the Green Line are ready and willing to accept such newcomers if more established communities within the Green Line are not prepared to do so.

Edelstein was reacting to a Channel 1 report that many of the Falash Mura would ultimately be absorbed in the territories.

Absorption Ministry spokesman Yehuda Glick said the combination of the Jerusalem Municipality's goodwill and the $1.5 million the ministry is investing in the site, led to the Givat Hamatos camp, which had been almost closed down, being reopened for the Falash Mura.

"Jerusalem is a big city, with expanded social services, and we felt that if the Absorption Ministry asks us to absorb 200 families, from a moral standpoint we couldn't refuse," said Jerusalem City Manager Ra'anan Dinur.

"This is the kind of a request by a government body that a city like Jerusalem can carry out the best possible way, without it causing the same social problems it might cause in other smaller local authorities."

Dinur added that the city had been promised that the housing solutions offered to the young families coming to Givat Hamatos would be in Jerusalem.

"If in the end we gain another 200 Ethiopian families living in Jerusalem, that will be great," he said.

The Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee is to visit the site today.

Glick said the arrival of the Falash Mura in Jerusalem was part of "an overall, new approach to the whole story," whereby instead of housing all the Falash Mura in one caravan site, they would be split up into three groups "according to their needs."

Young people will be going to the Naharayim absorption center, where they will study in ulpan and receive professional training. Families with small children will be coming to the capital, with the children studying in the cities' schools. There will also be a Nahal settlement nucleus moving into the site to help the newcomers out, and kindergartens established there.

Older people or families with older children will soon be housed at the Hatzrot Hefer caravan site near Netanya.

The families arriving in Jerusalem have up to four children. Absorption Ministry officials said one of the reasons the capital was approached was because of its strong education system.

Other local authorities had complained the Falash Mura would put too much of a drain on their educational facilities, some of which have already absorbed a large number of immigrants.

Bahta said that some 1,500 Falash Mura remain in Addis Ababa.

While happy about the newcomers' arrival, Bahta said that Ethiopian immigrants still living in caravans were being "humiliated" by the terrible conditions in which many of them live, and could have been absorbed "in other ways."

"We are between a rock and a hard place. If we complain about them being housed in caravans, they tell us: 'Well, then let them wait in Addis longer.' Because of this fear, we remain quiet about this, and let them be brought to caravan sites."

He said he had been shocked to hear an Ethiopian young man tell a television interviewer over the weekend that while he had prayed to come to Israel, he now was praying to return to Ethiopia.

"This is something that one never hears normally," Bahta said.

While the government has launched a campaign to close down the remaining caravan sites, Bahta said many of the immigrants do not understand how mortgages work, and lack the funds to repay them, anyway, making it hard for them to agree to accept even generous mortgage offers.

"It takes some time for them to understand it's worth it for them, so they stay in the caravans for a few years, and suffer from the conditions there," he said.

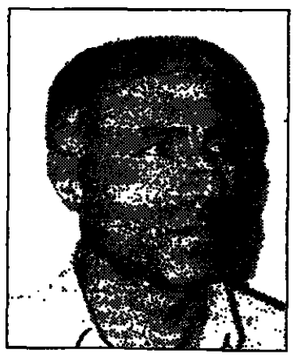
'Sunday Times' asks for Mordechai Vanunu's release

LONDON (AP) – Three days after nuclear spy Mordechai Vanunu was released from solitary confinement, *The Sunday Times* urged the government to go a step further and allow him to leave prison.

"What better way to celebrate the 50th birthday of the country than to make a gesture that will cost nothing, win the admiration of the world, and afford one helpless man some peace?" the paper asked in an editorial.

Vanunu, a former technician at the nuclear reactor in Dimona, is serving an 18-year prison sentence for giving information about Israel's nuclear program to *The Sunday Times* in 1986.

The Sunday Times said it was "thankful" for the government's decision to release Vanunu from solitary confinement, describing



Mordechai Vanunu (Reuters)

how he put on a new pair of walking shoes and went to the prison yard for the first time.

"He strolled round the yard, chatting with other inmates and staring at the factories beyond the prison walls – his first glimpse of the outside world in more than a decade," the paper said.

The Sunday Times said that shortly afterwards Vanunu told his lawyer, Avigdor Feldman, that the other prisoners were very curious but had not showed antagonism.

In its editorial, *The Sunday Times* noted that unlike some of Vanunu's other supporters, it did not campaign against nuclear weapons. The paper also said it could be argued that by disclosing Israel's nuclear program, Vanunu may have aided Israel's security through deterrence rather than damaged it.

"We are only asking the Israeli government to exercise mercy, to commute Vanunu's sentence and release him from custody," the paper said.

Meat Law amendment scheduled for vote today

By LIAT COLLINS

The coalition is mobilizing for the first reading of an amendment to the so-called Meat Law, scheduled today in the Knesset, which would continue the ban on the import of non-kosher meat. The original ban came into force under the Labor government.

The law has been scheduled for a vote twice since the beginning of the month when the government endorsed an amendment to the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation which would in effect preserve the status quo banning the import of non-kosher meat. But on both occasions the coalition has not had a majority, and although the law has been discussed it never came to the voting stage.

The amendment lifts the four-year limit on the Meat Law which is about to expire. The original amendment and time limit were passed under the Rabin government to solve the problem of the Meat Law possibly contradicting the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation.

The amendment is to a clause which rules that later legislation which passed even though it conflicts with the basic law will stand for four years.

The new amendment, lifting the time limit, needs a majority of 61 votes to pass because it relates to a basic law.

MK Ruby Rivlin, acting coalition chairman, said yesterday the law is "at the heart of the Jewish consensus and the Labor Party must call on its members to support the law, which Labor itself initiated in the past on the understanding that it would prevent an unnecessary rift among the Jewish people."

However, coalition party Yisrael Ba'aliya opposes it, claiming that the amendment "empties the basic law of meaning." A spokesman said the party will discuss the matter before today's vote and decide how to act.

One possible compromise being discussed is that the Meat Law and the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation will be completely separated in the second and third readings and that the four-year time limit will continue to apply to the basic law and be lifted only on the import of non-kosher meat.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi who presented the proposed amendment to the cabinet wrote in the explanation to the bill that it would "balance out the basic values of freedom of employment on the one hand and the fact that the state is a Jewish state on the other, while preserving the status quo which has existed in the field of meat imports since the establish-

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Maccabiah bridge defendants deny guilt

Contractors, Eyal plead innocent to causing death by negligence in fatal bridge collapse

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Four of the five men charged with causing death by negligence in the Maccabiah bridge collapse eight months ago pleaded innocent at Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

One by one Yehoshua Ben-Ezra and Baruch Kargula, the owners of the contracting company that built the bridge; Adam Mishori, manager of the subcontractor Irgunit; and Yoram Eyal, the chairman of the games organizing committee who has since resigned, pleaded not guilty.

The fifth defendant, Micha Bar-Ilan, the engineer who designed the bridge, is expected to enter a plea of innocent at the end of the month.

The bridge collapse killed four Australian athletes and injured more than 60.

The five defendants are charged with negligent homicide and building without proper permits. Ben-Ezra, Kargula, and Mishori were also charged with violating the Contractors Registration Law.

The session ended after less than an hour, with defense attorneys asking the court to instruct prosecutor Hadas Forrer-Gafni to explain or include in the indictment the cause of the collapse.

Attorney Avraham Landstein, representing Bar-Ilan, said that if the reason for the collapse is not known, one can not accuse five people of negligence.

"I say that a person can be negligent, but this negligence is not the cause of the collapse. Someone else's negligence led to the collapse," said Landstein.

In reaction, Forrer-Gafni said there is no obligation in the law to detail the cause of the death in the indictment.

"There are a number of reasons for the collapse of the bridge, each one of the causes could have separately led to the collapse," she said.

Judge Edna Beckenstein instructed Forrer-Gafni to submit in writing the causes of the deaths within seven days.

The footbridge collapsed under the Australian delegation as it crossed on its way into the National Stadium for the games' opening ceremony on July 14. The Australian athletes fell into the polluted waters of the Yarkon River. The bridge was built especially for the event.

On leaving the court-room one of the contractors, Kargula, said "We accurately followed the engineers' instructions."

The contractors intend to base their defense on arguments that Eyal's oversights and foul-ups are to blame for the collapse of the bridge and that the polluted waters of the Yarkon River are the cause of the deaths.

The next court session is scheduled for March 29 when Bar-Ilan will enter a plea. The trial will then be adjourned until May 18, after which hearings will be held three times a week.



Turning Hiriya into art
Artist Menashe Kadishman visits the Hiriya dump yesterday at the invitation of Bracha, an organization whose goal is to make artistic-touristic use of the site after it closes. (Israel Hadari)

Survivors group wants Cook to help obtain Jewish assets in Britain

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

A group of descendants of Romanian, Hungarian and Bulgarian Jews is seeking to add an item to British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's itinerary on his visit to Israel: A meeting with them to discuss their demand that Britain return assets seized from their families in 1942 and currently worth some £350 million.

According to Dr. Reuven Tal, of the Organization of Claimants of Jewish Property Seized in Britain, his family and many others living in Eastern European countries like Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria just before the war deposited their money in British banks "because they wanted to put their money in a safe place, fearing Hitler would overrun Europe and seize their assets." Tal said the British government confiscated the money in 1942, claiming it belonged to "enemy nationals." After the war, Tal says, an agreement was reached between the Romanian and British governments.

"The Romanian government had debts it owed to Britain, so in the peace treaty of 1947, there was a write-off which included stating that the British government would compensate any British national who had property in Romania, and the Romanian government would compensate Jewish or Romanian citizens who had property in Britain," he explained.

"The agreement was not made in good faith because the British government concluded this agreement with the Communist government of Romania, which didn't have the money or the intent to repay it," Tal said.

According to Tal, there were 250,000 individuals or companies whose assets were frozen, and the British public records office has thousands of files regarding these assets. The assets, worth £35m. at the time, now are worth about 10 times that amount.

This past summer, Tal said, a meeting of the Knesset Sub-Committee for the Return of Jewish Property chaired by Likud MK Avraham Herschson led the way for the matter to be investigated by the British government in July, after a question was raised in Parliament. That investigation "confirms all our claims," says Tal, "but the British government still insists that the Romanian and Hungarian governments are responsible for returning these assets. We want to let Mr. Cook know that we oppose this. Our families deposited their assets in a British bank in good faith, and we expect the British government to return the assets in full value."

A response was unavailable from the British Embassy in Tel Aviv as yesterday was Sunday and the embassy was closed.

NEWS
in brief

Daylight saving time starts Thursday night

Daylight saving time will begin this year on the night between Thursday and Friday. At 24:00, clocks will be moved forward one hour to 01:00.

Daylight saving time will be in effect for a total of 170 days, until Saturday night, September 5. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Eskin allowed to travel abroad

Right-wing activist Avigdor Eskin can travel abroad for 10 days if he puts up NIS 500,000 in guarantees, the Supreme Court ruled yesterday, accepting an agreement reached between Eskin's lawyer and the state.

Eskin, who is suspected of conspiring to throw a pig's head onto the Temple Mount, has been under house arrest since the middle of last month.

Under the agreement, Eskin can leave the country tomorrow and return on March 26. In return, he must post an NIS 250,000 personal guarantee, and must find a guarantor willing to guarantee the same amount. *Itim*

Court asked to stop Manor's Israel Prize

Tel Aviv composer and playwright Matti Regev has asked the High Court of Justice to prevent the granting of the Israel Prize in Music to Ehud Manor. Regev said he is seeking an early hearing after submitting a petition against Manor several months ago.

Regev claims that Manor is a civil servant because he works for Israel Radio and for ITV. There is therefore a "conflict of interests" when Manor broadcasts songs published by companies with whom he puts out his own work, Regev says.

In addition, he says, Manor interviewed Naomi Shemer, who headed the Israel Prize committee, shortly before he received the award, although at the time it was not clear that Manor knew Shemer was to be appointed head of the committee. The prize should therefore be taken away from Manor, he says. The state has yet to reply to the petition. *Batsheva Tsur*

Damaged sewer line polluting Haifa

Efforts were still under way yesterday to repair the main sewer line leading to Haifa's sewage treatment plant.

The line was damaged Thursday by a contractor working for the Netivei Carmel company, but he did not report the damage to either the city or the Environment Ministry.

The leak was only discovered on Friday during a routine inspection by an Environment Ministry inspector. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Nine arrested in Galilee drug raid

Nine suspected drug dealers were arrested late Saturday night in a series of raids in Acre, Nahariya, and Karmiel. One of those arrested was a woman, who was released on bail. The other eight were remanded by the Acre Magistrate's Court yesterday for periods ranging from five to 10 days. *Itim*

Knesset library sets up Jewish sources dept.

The Knesset's archives and library has established a new department to supply MKs with information on Jewish sources.

The unit is expected to help MKs who are looking for an appropriate biblical quote to use in a speech or in preparing bills and Knesset motions. *Liat Collins*

'Free' phone service with a commercial catch

By JUDY SIEGEL

There is no such thing as a free lunch – so in exchange for making domestic phone calls at no charge, those who register with a new service will become a captive audience for 10-second commercial messages interrupting all their outgoing conversations every two minutes.

The service, called Freephone, will save the average home NIS 300 to NIS 400 in phone charges every two months, although subscribers will have to pay Bezeq's regular service fees. In Sweden, it has proven so popular that 60 percent of all phone users have signed up for Freephone, putting up with the advertising jingles and pitches in exchange for the gratis yakking. The Swedish company is selling franchises to companies in other countries.

The service will be launched in the fall by Ribakom, a subsidiary of Ribak Line, which is owned by Amnon and Oded Ribak. A major Japanese company and an Israeli communications company are currently negotiating to become investors in the project. Amnon Ribak estimates that 5%-7% of advertising budgets will be diverted to this new commercial medium.

Subscribers will have to register in advance and agree to all conversations being peppered with advertising. A special computer system allows advertisers to be customized to the customer profile – such as certain advertising for haredim and Russian- or Arabic-speakers. In addition, advertisements can be offered according to region or even part of a city, so that a nearby supermarket, for example, could promote its services to local residents.

The dialer will hear the commercials, while the person on the other line will hear music, unless he or she agrees to listen to the advertisements. It won't work on a computer modem line or allow users to call abroad, but it will be available on cellular phones.

Ribak said the company "commits itself to observe all acceptable ethical rules in the world of advertising in the electronic media. Freephone will not broadcast, under any circumstances, commercials for cigarettes, alcohol, or messages that can harm children."

Ribakom says that it may get special phone rates from Bezeq, as it will become "a major customer for Bezeq services."

Soldiers' parents group demands probe of Gazit

By BATSHEVA TSUR and Itim

A group of religious parents of sons serving in the IDF yesterday appealed to Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein to open a criminal investigation into recent remarks by Maj.-Gen. (res.) Shlomo Gazit about persons who wear knitted kippot.



Shlomo Gazit (Israel Sun)

Gazit earlier this month compared the wearing of knitted kippot by soldiers to the swastikas on the armbands of Nazi soldiers. He also expressed "fears" over the appointment of kippa-wearing officers to senior positions. The remarks led to a public outcry and Gazit withdrew them.

Among those who approached Rubinstein, through the offices of advocate Giora Ro'i, were a number of bereaved parents. Ro'i asked that Rubinstein examine whether the remarks could be considered incitement, racism, or libel against a certain sector of the population. "To our regret," the lawyer wrote, "the schism in the nation is growing and there have recently been sharp, unpleasant and controversial remarks made. But those of Gazit are much more unpleasant and painful than any others published so far."

The Justice Ministry spokesman said yesterday evening that no letter had yet been received from the parents.

Ministry denies dragging out OK for $120m. Electric Co. project

The Interior Ministry yesterday denied the Israel Electric Corporation's charges that over the past five years it has unnecessarily dragged out authorizing the company's plans to build new headquarters at Haifa's southern entrance. The ministry claimed that approving the plans for $120 million, 25-story building is a complicated process that it has been working on intensively.

Meanwhile, IEC workers and Histadrut members, as well as mayors of towns near Haifa, held a meeting yesterday afternoon to protest the alleged cancellation of the project. The workers' committee representing IEC workers in the North had announced that the plan has been cancelled.

"IEC employees will use all means available to them against anyone who tries to destroy the plans to build the company's offices in Haifa," Amos Eden said at the protest meeting at the Haifa generator at Hof Shemen.

Haim Kopelman, who heads the Interior Ministry's Haifa branch and the Haifa Regional Planning and Building Committee, said yesterday that the committee had conditionally approved plans for the project. At the committee's meeting last week, all objections to the project were overruled, but a Transport Ministry representative was not there and so the Transport Ministry's report on the project was not presented, Kopelman explained. The ministry's report is to be presented at the committee's meeting next week, after which Kopelman expects the project to receive final approval.

"If the Transport Ministry's representative had participated in the discussion last week, the plan already would have been approved," Kopelman said. (Itim)

Court delays ruling on disputed Nazareth site

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Nazareth Magistrate's Court yesterday deferred until next month its ruling on an eviction and demolition order against the Islamic Movement, which has erected a tent on land where the municipality has planned a plaza for Christian pilgrims coming for the year 2000.

The Islamic Movement, which had objected to the order, claims that the land belongs to the Moslem Wakf (religious trust) and says it wants to build a mosque on the site. The court is also due to rule on the ownership of the land.

In a related controversy, the United Christian Council in Israel said yesterday that it hopes to arrange to have a Christian group assume responsibility for the House of Simon the Tanner in Jaffa, where a Moslem group has occupied a room, claiming that the site was originally a mosque.

Trevor Marzetti, chairman of the UCCI, said that the building had a mixed history, but he noted that mosques had been built on many Christian and Jewish holy places.

"We would like to ensure that it continues to be recognized as a Christian site and that Christian groups are allowed to visit it. We would prefer for it to be run by some Christian organization which could explain its significance," Marzetti said.

UCCI secretary Charles Kopp said that the site reminded Christians of Pentecost, in which Peter received visions that non-Jews should not be discriminated against. He said that Christian groups from as far away as Japan regularly visited there.

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WORLD

in brief

Five die in Iranian earthquake

GOLBAF, Iran (AP) – Rescue teams were dispatched yesterday to a sparsely populated region in southeastern Iran where a powerful overnight earthquake killed five people and injured 40, Teheran Radio reported. Residents said that casualties from the magnitude 6.4 quake in Kerman province were low because many buildings were rebuilt to withstand earthquakes after a killer quake in 1981 nearly flattened the region, killing about 1,000 people. "It's a miracle that so few people died. We expected a lot, lot worse," said Yadollah Qorbani, head of Kerman province's Red Crescent Society, the Islamic equivalent of the Red Cross. Qorbani said that about 2,000 homes were completely destroyed in Golbaf and the surrounding region, leaving about 10,000 people homeless.

Rwandan army kills 15 rebels

NAIROBI (Reuters) – Fifteen rebels were killed on Friday in a clash with Rwandan army units in the southern prefecture of Gitarama, Rwandan Radio reported on Saturday. "According to military sources, 15 assailants were killed yesterday morning in clashes which pitted them against government forces in Kayenzi Commune of Gitarama Prefecture," the radio, monitored in Nairobi, said. "The same sources indicated the civil population actively contributed to the army's victory," the radio added.

Report: Bombs kill over 400 Algerians in 1 year

PARIS (Reuters) – Bombs killed 412 Algerian civilians and wounded 1,572 in 1997, the Algerian daily *La Nouvelle Republique* reported yesterday. The 177 bombings recorded during the year included 27 booby-trapped vehicles, five parcel bombs and six homemade mines, it said. The newspaper did not say who was responsible for the attacks, but the authorities, who have said thousands of civilians have died in bomb attacks in the past six years, have blamed Moslem rebels. In the latest such attack, five people were wounded on Saturday when a bomb exploded near a high school in Algiers, according to the security forces.

Teacher who had baby with teen pregnant again

DES MOINES, Washington (AP) – A former teacher ordered to stay away from a 14-year-old boy who fathered her daughter is pregnant again, her attorney confirmed. The father is likely the teenager Mary Kay Letourneau, 36, considers the love of her life, Attorney David Gehrke said Saturday.

Letourneau is about six weeks pregnant, Gehrke told reporters at his suburban Seattle home. She did not tell him who the father is, but Gehrke said it was probably the 14-year-old. If that is the case, he said, she could face new criminal charges.

Couple gets married after 27-year engagement

LITTLE SUTTON, England (AP) – A whirlwind romance which quickly settled to a 27-year engagement finally reached the altar Saturday, as John Fowles and Carol Campbell tied the knot. The couple met at a Liverpool nightclub in 1971, and announced their engagement six weeks later. Instead of getting married right away, they set up house together – in 1982. "I've asked her to marry me on numerous occasions," said John, 49. "She always said 'no.' But on Christmas Day last year, out of the blue, she just turned round and said 'yes.' "It is said that marriage should not be taken lightly," said the Rev. Colin Potter, who conducted the ceremony. But he agreed they'd had enough time to consider.

Italy's chief rabbi, on eve of landmark Vatican Holocaust statement:

We're waiting for a clear word

By PHILIP PULLELLA

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) – The Vatican is set to issue one of its most-eagerly awaited documents – a landmark declaration on the Holocaust. The statement to to be issued today marks the Vatican's first official attempt to get to grips with the Holocaust era, when Pope Pius XII was accused of turning a blind eye to the Nazi attempt to exterminate the Jews.

But it was not clear if the short document, some 10 years in the *making, would be the clear and* unequivocal admission of fault that Jews have been waiting to hear from the Church.

The declaration is also seen as one of the final paving stones before Pope John Paul can fulfill his burning desire to visit Israel.

"It is an extremely positive fact that the Catholic Church wants to remember the destruction of the Jewish people," said Italy's Chief Rabbi Elio Toaff. "This is because in certain countries, the Church gave a helping hand to the persecution. We are waiting for a clear word from the pope and the Vatican."

The document, by the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with Jews, responds to decades of *requests by Jews for a declaration on* the role of the Catholic Church during the Holocaust.

"Historic is a highly inflated and overused word, but this time I think it is accurate," said Igor Man, one of Italy's leading commentators. "This is a document about the pain of Catholics for the immense tragedy of the Holocaust."

The pope, who lived through the horrors of the Nazi occupation in his native Poland, has made improving relations with Jews a main goal of his 20-year-old pontificate. He was the first pontiff to visit the sites of concentration camps, the first to enter and preach in a synagogue, and he guided the Vatican to diplomatic *relations with Israel.*

The 77-year-old pope has readily acknowledged Catholic failings during the Holocaust, but he has sometimes pulled his punches about the responsibility of the Church as an institution.

While visiting Germany in 1996, the pope said not enough of that country's Catholics had stood up to Hitler. But during the same trip he *defended his wartime predecessor*, Pius XII, against Jewish accusations.

In the written text of a speech, the pope said: "Those who don't limit themselves to cheap polemics know very well what Pius XII thought about the Nazi regime and how much he did to help the countless victims persecuted by that regime." But he omitted the key phrase when he delivered the speech. Vatican historians say Pius worked quietly behind the scenes and did not speak out more forcefully for fear of *worsening the situation* for Catholics and Jews, in Germany and occupied countries.

The document is expected to reiterate the declarations of a Catholic symposium at the Vatican last October on how imbedded religious prejudices against Jews stifled the capacity of many Christians to react to *antisemitism* during the Nazi era.

Father Remi Hoeckman, secretary of the Vatican commission, told last October's symposium that racial hatred and sins against humanity had contributed "to creating an atmosphere in which the Holocaust... became possible."

Troops open fire on Thai refugee camp

MAE HLA, Thailand (AP) – A raiding party allied with Myanmar's military government fired more than 10 mortar rounds yesterday into a refugee camp in *Thailand sheltering 30,000 people*, a Thai general said. At least one refugee was confirmed injured.

Maj.-Gen. Chamlong Photong, chief of staff of the Third Army, responsible for the rugged border area, said Thai soldiers returned artillery rounds and drove off the attackers shelling the Mae Hla refugee camp. The raiders belonged to the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army, a faction of the Karen ethnic minority allied with the government of Myanmar *against the Karen National Union*, which has battled for more Karen autonomy for 50 years.

The DKBA attacked and torched another refugee camp, Huay Koloke, last Wednesday. Three people died and 9,000 were left homeless. The border is strung with refugee camps filled with some 100,000 people, mostly Karen, who have fled military offensives in Myanmar that survivors and human rights groups say have brought rape, murder and torching of villages to terrorize the populace.

The Myanmar army and its allies are staging a late dry-season offensive against the Karen nationalists. Refugee camps are targeted to deny the KNU rear-base support and to frighten the refugees into returning to Myanmar, also known as Burma.

Tension has been high, especially at Mae Hla, the largest camp, with some 30,000 people. It also was attacked a year ago. Chamlong said other camps were vulnerable to attack, especially Maw Ker, with some 6,000 people.

DKBA and Myanmar troops had gathered for the past two days across the shallow Moei River that defines the border to attack Mae Hla, aid workers said. Many residents left the camp Saturday night to sleep across a highway in relative safety.

The Ministry of Interior warned aid agencies not to send a scheduled twice-monthly rice shipment into Mae Hla, saying the 10-truck convoy would present a tempting target. Aid workers said the refugees have sufficient rice for the time being.



Memorial march

Ethnic Albanians jostle each other during a demonstration yesterday in the center of Pristina, the capital of Kosovo. More than 15,000 marched through the city, holding candles in a peaceful but tense memorial for victims of a Serbian police crackdown in the province. Their leaders later rejected the Serbian government's latest offer of talks. (Reuters)

Indian president invites Hindu nationalists to form gov't

By HEMA SHUKLA

NEW DELHI (AP) – Hindu *nationalist leader Atal Bihari* Vajpayee was named prime minister yesterday, ending nearly two weeks of political hustling following an election that left no party with a clear mandate.

Vajpayee, 73, of the Bharatiya Janata Party, received a letter of appointment from India's president and said he will take the oath of office Thursday.

By March 29, he must win a vote of confidence in parliament, he said. If he fails, he must resign, as he did in 1996 after just 13 days in office when he failed to muster a *parliamentary majority.*

"I consider it a great responsibility," he said, beaming as he spoke to reporters on the red gravel forecourt of the presidential mansion.

Opening the letter from President K.R. Narayanan, he read one line: "I have the pleasure to appoint you prime minister."

His appointment came several hours after the Bharatiya Janata won a boost from a recalcitrant ally who agreed to become a full member of a BJP coalition.

The decision by the bloc of southern parties may give the fragile *government a sense of stability* that India has lacked for two years.

J. Jayalalitha, the mercurial leader of the southern bloc, had earlier pledged to give the BJP her votes in the legislature, but said she would not join the coalition.

She changed her mind after Vajpayee sent an emissary to her base in Madras with a promise to include many of her planks in the coalition platform.

Hours before the president's decision, he met the newly elected chief of the Congress Party, the second largest party in parliament.

Sonia Gandhi conceded after the meeting that her party, which led India for 45 of its 50 years, was too weak now to bid for power.

Jayalalitha had earlier threatened to withhold her support from the BJP altogether, which could have scrubbed the Hindu party's chances.

Her delaying tactics showed how vulnerable Vajpayee will be to the whims of the diverse parties comprising the minority coalition.

Iraq: Clinton is 'war criminal'

BAGHDAD (Reuters) – Iraq has decided to set up a "popular tribunal" to indict as war criminals US President Bill Clinton, his predecessor George Bush and former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher, Iraqi newspapers said yesterday.

They also said that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, visiting a village on the outskirts of Baghdad, warned Iraqis to be alert against US military aggression.

"The enemy looks at you if he finds you asleep ... he would be greedy [to harm you,]" Saddam said in an apparent reference to the US, which has massed troops in the Gulf and has threatened to use them against Iraq if it does not implement UN resolutions.

The papers said member of the regional command of the ruling Baath party Abdul-Ghani Abdul-Ghafur announced "the formation of an ad hoc popular committee demanding the trial of Bush, Clinton, Thatcher, [US Secretary of State Madeleine] Albright and US Secretary of Defense [William Cohen] and their aides as war criminals."

The Iraqi move is an apparent reaction to a US Senate non- binding resolution, approved on Friday, branding President Saddam Hussein a war criminal and calling for his indictment by an international tribunal to be set up under the authority of the United Nations.

N.Korea to renew call for US troop withdrawal

By ELIF KABAN

GENEVA (Reuters) – North Korea will renew its long-standing demand for the withdrawal of 37,000 US troops from South Korea at fresh peace talks due to open today, a senior Pyongyang negotiator said.

The Geneva talks are only the second formal negotiations since the 1950-53 Korean War to bring together North and South Korea and their respective allies, China and the US.

Washington has previously rejected the demands of Pyongyang's Stalinist leadership that it pull its forces out of South Korea.

"To us, the issue of American troop withdrawal is one of the major subjects at the negotiations," Li Gun, deputy head of the North Korean delegation and Pyongyang's ambassador to the UN in New York, told Reuters yesterday. "We will repeat our demand in Geneva."

In a reminder of the depth of the divisions on the peninsula, North Korea on Thursday announced a wartime mobilization coinciding with annual military exercises.

Li said the mobilization was part of annual military exercises but added: "This year, it is serious because of South Korean military reinforcements. This is keeping us alert. We will bring this up in Geneva." This week's talks, following an earlier session in December which failed to yield significant progress, take place against a backdrop of rapidly changing events on the divided peninsula.

The election of a new president in South Korea who has committed himself to better ties with Pyongyang, the shipment of food aid across the border to the famine-stricken North, and signs of deepening official contact between Washington and Pyongyang, have all produced some optimism.

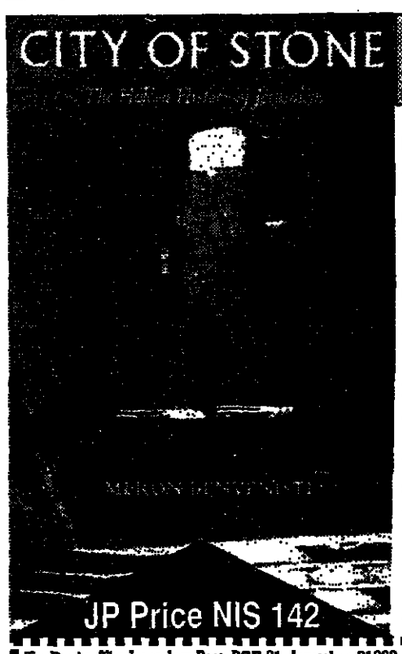
But officials from all sides are playing down expectations of much progress in Geneva, hunkering down for what is widely expected to be a long, drawn-out process lasting years.

"The fact that the North Koreans came to Geneva for a second round is better than nothing," said a South Korean official.

South Korean officials said the emphasis would be on seeking ways of establishing direct talks with the North.

South Korea's new president Kim Dae-jung has said he is agreeable to a summit with the North, proposed an exchange of special envoys and offered to facilitate reunions between separated families.

Kim's aides are believed to have suggested that they would not object if the US wishes to improve its own ties with North Korea, possibly even by recognizing the Pyongyang government and easing trade sanctions. That would be a sharp reversal from the stance of previous Seoul governments, which feared such suggestions could undermine the US alliance with South Korea, and it might open new options for the US.



Meron Benvenisti, Jerusalem's resident researcher and former Deputy Mayor, overcomes in his latest book the legacy of self-interest and writes an unofficial history of Jerusalem and its inhabitants, from those walking the streets today to the ghosts that still inhabit the Holy City. Hardcover, 263 pp.

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Unrequited love on Long Island

Movie Review



By Adina Hoffman

Based on a novel by Gilbert Adair, *Love and Death on Long Island* is a witty, British reworking of Thomas Mann's *Death in Venice*, with a strong dose of pop cultural irony thrown in. John Hurt stars as a reclusive fogey of a London writer with the appropriately cadaverous name of Giles De'Ath. Although the character, a widower, exists as a cartoon of English intellectual snobbery, repression and conservatism (it's the end of the 20th century and he still considers movies, or "the pictures," as he calls them, a radical innovation), Hurt brings his usual withered dignity to the role: there's something both laughable and sad about Giles in the early scenes, and writer/director Richard Kwietniowski takes care to be gentle, even sympathetic, as he pokes fun of the old fuddy dud.

LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND

★★★

Written and directed by Richard Kwietniowski. Based on the novel by Gilbert Adair. Hebrew title: *Ahava umavet b'Long Island*. 93 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Not recommended for children. With John Hurt, Jason Priestley, Fiona Loewi, Sheila Hancock and Maury Chaikin

Dodging a rain shower one day, Giles finds himself inside a movie theater, where a film adaptation of a Forster novel is playing. He buys a ticket, settles into his seat and is shocked when the projector starts up and a gang of beer-swilling American teenagers appear on the screen before him, hooting, cursing and carrying on in a loudly stupid, frat-house way.

"This isn't Forster..." Giles mutters in dismay. It seems he's wandered into the wrong auditorium, and is watching a *Porky's*-styled flick called *Hot Pants College II*. But just as he realizes his mistake, an image appears before him that keeps him riveted in his place. A pretty young actor (Jason Priestley) enters the film's action, and the earth stands still.

The heartthrob's name turns out to be Ronnie Bostock, and from the minute his onscreen image enters Giles's life, everything changes. Suddenly, Giles has a mission and a passion: to know intimately everything there is to know about Ronnie Bostock, pin-up boy. He begins to buy teen fan magazines and to clip every reference he finds there to the blue-eyed, cowlicked hunk.

He buys a video player (and eventually a TV too, which he hadn't first realized was part of the technological deal) and rents all of Ronnie Bostock's oeuvre – which consists of a terrible collection of supporting parts in comball films, plausibly atrocious scenes from which are included in the movie for our delectation. Soon Giles decides he must travel to Ronnie's home town on Long Island, and attempt to meet the object of his adoration in the flesh.

Up to this point, *Love and Death on Long Island* takes shape as one of the funniest, most stinging satires ever attempted on the uncomfortable attraction that intellectuals often feel for the dregs of junk-culture. And while the picture works as a send-up of the sometimes twisted justifications that allow literate, worldly people to explain their love of trash (action movies, rap music, *Melrose Place*, the *New York Post*), the filmmakers clearly *mean* it, too.

Gilbert Adair is himself an extremely well-read and articulate man and a cinephile, one whose tastes, to tell from *Flickers*, his delightfully wide-ranging 1995 book about the movies, run without shame from high to low, Alain Resnais to Jerry Lewis, *Cries and Whispers* to *I Walked With a Zombie*.

So when Giles De'Ath concocts a pretentious-sounding aesthetic theory to rationalize his violent crush on Ronnie Bostock – he is, he says, interested in finding beauty where no one had ever thought to look for it before – the irony is only partial. This notion, of a beautiful figure or line waiting to emerge from the shadows of an otherwise dreadful work, is one no honest film buff can dismiss out of hand: unless one is extremely perverse, why else watch bad movies?



Jason Priestley (of 'Beverly Hills 90210' fame) is the object of an older man's adoration.

Unfortunately, Kwietniowski and Adair leave themselves little room to maneuver once the initial comic stakes have been set. Giles journeys to Long Island and begins to interact with Ronnie and his family (Fiona Loewi) in person, but there the joke of his passion falls flat. Not surprisingly, Jason Priestley (of *Beverly Hills 90210* fame) is very much like the character he plays – a cutie pie who can't act. And as soon as he opens his mouth to speak, the illusion of ideal beauty is shattered, and Giles begins to seem no more poignant than a prissy old fool, inappropriately hung up on a shallow, unaware stud bunny.

Meanwhile, the film's attempts at commentary on the Anglo-American culture clash seem facile. (Giles refers to Rimbaud and Ronnie hears Rambo, etc.) There's no question that the film is clever; whether it amounts to anything more is another matter.

Smoke gets in your eyes

By ALICE TRINKL

The incidence of smoking in top-grossing movies has increased during the 1990s, and dramatically exceeds real smoking rates, according to a study led by a prominent tobacco researcher from the University of California San Francisco. After declining over three decades, smoking in films has returned to levels comparable to those in the 1960s before the first Surgeon General's report on smoking and health was issued in 1964, according to Stanton Glantz, a professor of medicine at UCSF. The report was presented by Glantz and Theresa Stockwell.

The presentation of smoking in films remains pro-tobacco, according to Stockwell and Glantz, with only 14 percent of tobacco screen-time presenting adverse social or health effects of tobacco use.

The researchers found that in movies from the 1960s, tobacco was used about once for every five minutes of film time. In films from the 1970s and 1980s, it was used once every 10 to 15 minutes, but in movies from the 1990s, it was used an average of every three to five minutes.

"The use of tobacco in films is increasing and is reinforcing images that present smoking as a widespread and socially desirable activity," say Glantz and Stockwell. "These portrayals may encourage teenagers – the major movie audience – to smoke. Films continue to present the smoker as one who is typically white, male, middle class, successful and attractive, a movie hero who takes smoking for granted," the researchers report.

"In an era in which the tobacco industry is finding traditional advertising media increasingly restricted, the appearance of tobacco use in motion pictures is an important mechanism to promote and reinforce tobacco use, particularly among young people," they report.

In the 1980s, the tobacco industry was paying substantial fees for product placement, but the Tobacco Institute claims that payment for specific brand placement in films has ended, say Glantz and Stockwell.

They contend that anti-tobacco ads should be aired by cinemas prior to any film that portrays smoking, and that producers should require everyone connected to the film to certify that they are not receiving money or gifts for the use of tobacco in films. (UCSF)

Gaza's 'cruel society' on ETV2

By BARRY DAVIS

While women in the West continue to move toward equality, there is no political correctness in Gaza. As the ETV 2 documentary *Stories of Honor and Shame* shows, Gazan women have precious few social rights. No one asks them whom they want to marry, when they want to marry, or if, indeed, they wish to tie the knot at all. A Gazan girl might return home from school one evening to find herself betrothed to cousin Ibrahim or Ahmed and, before she can even think about it, all the business aspects of the transaction have been neatlyconcluded by the blushing bride's father and brothers.

At this point, Gazan women lose the only chance they had of achieving a more enlightened life than their mothers enjoyed, by being forced to give up school. A constant theme of the procession of veiled, painfully young women is the anguish at having been forced to give up the school book for the kitchen apron. When asked what she wishes for her children, a 17-year-old mother of three daughters says she hopes they have a happier life than her. When pressed by the interviewer regarding the precise means with which her offspring could achieve this lofty goal, she adds: "That they should complete their studies." We leave the young mother sitting with her daughters on a step, looking more like their big sister than their mother.

An even darker side to life in Gaza is revealed by another woman who displays a similar thirst for knowledge. The young widow tells us that widowed or divorced women are considered fair game for all manner of taunting former in-laws, including the female members of the clan. "We live in a cruel society," she states simply. "I still want to study. I'll still want to, even if I live to be 100," she adds, showing her unquenchable spirit.

But there may be the faintest glimmer of hope that Gaza may, after all, eventually achieve a greater degree of modern-day enlightenment. A middle-aged woman relates how she was betrothed and married without having so much as laid an eye on her true love. They were in separate houses at the time of the nuptials. In her day, it was considered shameful for bride and groom to be in the same place during the wedding ceremony, "not like today," she adds. With rare determination, she insists that her own daughters study. "I didn't let my husband say a word," she states defiantly.

However, it seems, even education can't tilt the social scales towards improving Gazan women's rights vis-a-vis their own children. A divorced teacher tells us how she initiated divorce proceedings when her husband's beatings and goading became unbearable, taking their young son with her into her social wilderness. But when the boy turns seven he will be entrusted to his father's custody, and there is nothing the mother can do to prevent her child being wrested from her maternal arms. "The matter is out of my hands," she states stoically.

The interviews are interspersed with stock shots of barbed wire, bustling marketplace scenes, and idyllic seaside frolics – where the men stroll along the golden sands clad only in regulation Western-style swimming trunks and women wade into the sea, head covering and all, to tend to their children.

ETV 2 airs Stories of Honor and Shame *tonight at 9.*

The new Maria Callas

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Greek soprano Sonia Theodoridou celebrates her birthday tomorrow in an unusual way. Visiting Israel for the first time, the talented young musician will perform the music of her homeland's beloved composer Manos Hadjidakis in a concert at the Enav Center in Tel Aviv (8:30). The soprano, who sings regularly in the leading European opera houses, was in her homeland this past Saturday rehearsing with compatriot Janis Vakarelis for the concert which is the beginning of a series of recitals promoting their recent disc, *Encounters*, in which they perform several Hadjidakis works for voice and piano.

Theodoridou explains that Hadjidakis is "the composer of my country. The music is fantastic and it is Greece itself."

She first met Hadjidakis when she was 18. "I was very young and I was working on the radio with him. He had a special personality just like his music, like my country. Hadjidakis's music is very Greek." At the time, Theodoridou had just finished school. "I knew I wanted to be a singer, and he offered me my first real job in the radio chorus. I will never forget that, and I will never forget him."

Theodoridou recalls that since her early childhood, she dreamed about opera. And opera in Greece means, first and foremost, Maria Callas. "There is an atmosphere of memories of Callas on which we grow up, even today. I was raised in a small city in the north and my parents did not know what opera was. But we all loved music and sang Greek folk songs all the time."

Today Theodoridou sings only opera and classical music repertoire, traveling all over Europe with longer stops in Switzerland, Brussels, Greece and London, where she studies with Vera Rosza. "I met her in London when I had trouble with my voice and she has become very close to me. She is more than a teacher and a friend. She is fantastic, and I hope to be studying with her as long as I live."

In her own operatic career, Theodoridou admits that she has to find the balance "between my lyric soprano voice and my very dramatic personality." And, she says, there is nothing that could be more natural for a Greek singer than to perform opera. "Greece is the birthplace of tragedy, and the opera plots are almost all tragedies. So it's very natural for me. I'm very happy to be a native of this country."

After winning the Maria Callas Foundation prize, obvious comparisons with the legendary diva became common practice. "It is an honor. And yes, they are always looking for a new Callas but I have no problems with that because I don't want to be the second Callas; I want to be the first Theodoridou."

Pianist Janis Vakarelis, who has made his Israeli debut with the Haifa Symphony Orchestra a few seasons ago, adds that "Hadjidakis's songwriting is very much like that of Schubert. Of course the works are based on Greek souls and dramas, but the link is not that far from my classical music roots. In effect, I think Hadjidakis is a very elaborate Greek Bartok."

Vakarelis, who inserts some solo Hadjidakis piano music into his own recitals, adds that "the music is so nice and so touching. And in these songs, even if you don't understand the words, the feelings can come across very easily. It's very intimate, and I'm sure that especially in a Mediterranean country, the effect will be immediate."

The Theodoridou-Vakarelis *Encounters* disc is one of the most poetic, captivating, and enchanting ones I have listened to recently, featuring haunting melodies and Theodoridou's crystal-clear and very down to earth voice. The concert should be as exciting, if not more so.



Sonia Theodoridou tries to balance 'my lyric soprano voice and my very dramatic personality.'

'Two on death' for new festival

By HELEN KAYE

Cliched as it sounds, a common humanity links Professor Rafi Carasso and Albert Amar. They are one of the 21 paired duos performing in Du'Oman, the country's newest festival which takes place at the Jerusalem Theater on March 18-20 and in Tel Aviv at Habimah on March 20-22.

They met through the drama workshops Amar does with disabled and retarded children on behalf of AKIM (Israel Association for the Rehabilitation of the Mentally Retarded). "I was astonished by what [Amar] did and his immense love and sense of caring for the children," says Carasso.

"Rafi is so open, so human, so special," says Amar, who is a guitarist, singer and composer. Carasso is head of the neurology and pain clinic at Hadera's Hillel Yoffe Hospital, professor of neuropsychology at Tel Aviv and Bar Ilan Universities, a prize-winning sculptor whose statues are sited both in Israel and throughout the world, a broadcaster and TV host, and a restaurant critic. His hobby is Eastern philosophy.

Their show is called *Shnayim al Mita* or "Two on Death," but the Hebrew title is a play on words between "death" and "bed," which itself can be a metaphysical concept, as Carasso might say.

The piece, which the good doctor calls "performance art," is built around eight identical small polyurethane sculptures, texts, and Amar's music.

The sculptures are stylized human embryos "which symbolize mankind and embody all of humanity's capacity and potential. At the same time, an embryo is very fragile. People are fragile too, but they deny that. "Our show touches on destiny and death," says Carasso. "My father and Albert's are both dead, and we try to make connections with those deaths because death is a part of life. Judaism doesn't teach us how to die."

Amar improvises on his guitar as Carasso lumbers around the table where the embryos are arranged in rows. Amar's music is a blend of North African Gnawa melodies, the music of Morocco's Jews, or Andalusian themes, and the various Israeli elements he has incorporated over the years.

"I have no texts," he says, "except for one segment that is half Moroccan and half in gibberish."

The two men couldn't possibly be more different. Carasso, 53, is voluminous and voluble. Amar is thin and taciturn. Carasso happily speaks about himself and his family – he's married, has four children aged 15 to 23, lives in Michmoret and supported himself as a magician during his medical student days.

Amar (he admits to being 40-ish), is mostly mum on these subjects, but he does disclose that he and his family immigrated from Casablanca when he was 10, that his father planted most of the trees in Zichron Ya'acov, that he trained as an actor at Tel Aviv University, and that he has written music for the theater and TV, most recently for *Sonya Mushkat* at Habimah.

"We've tried to find a common ground," says Carasso of their act. "First and foremost it's person to person, and about being sensitive to other people."

Amar calls their meeting and work "an encounter between different values, traditions, mentalities, and it all comes together so beautifully. Sharing our cultures makes Israeli culture."

Carasso and Amar are not the only odd couple in Du'Oman. Others include food critic Dan Dessler and musician Nir Haim Brand in the amusing *The Kitchen in Concert*; satirist Mati Seri and painter Tal Bendi in *The Public's Right to Know*; and *Duo Taksim*, in which contact improvisationist Arye Boorstein and oud virtuoso Yair Dallal mix it on stage.

Carasso says that "Albert and I have wanted to do something together for a long time, and when we saw the ad soliciting material for Du'Oman we applied.

Is there anything else they share? Both unanimously praise director Adi Segev "who keeps us focused" and each, respectively, says "I'm happy."

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Sharon's unilateral action

When National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon last made a splash with a plan of his own, it was with his map of "national interests" upon which to base a final-status agreement with the Palestinians. Now Sharon has thrown his hat in the ring of the Lebanon debate, with a withdrawal proposal.

This time, the question arises whether Sharon has crossed the fine line between shaping government policy and undercutting it, and not just to advance the national interest, but his own.

Much ink was spilt comparing the dueling "final-status maps" of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Sharon, as Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu planned for his last trip to Washington. In the end, a cabinet decision finessed the difference between the two, which turned out to be minimal.

After the ruckus had passed, Sharon himself denied that there was any contradiction between the maps. But by that time Sharon had established himself solidly within the four-minister security cabinet (now three, after David Levy's resignation).

Sharon can no longer complain about being an outsider, though he may not have been consulted before Mordechai told a Lebanese newspaper that Israel now supports UN Security Council Resolution 425. That resolution, passed after Israel's first major operation against the PLO state-within-a-state in Lebanon in 1978, calls for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces.

The resolution also calls for the establishment of UN Interim Force in Lebanon, whose mandate will be "...restoring international peace and security and assisting the government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area."

Syria and Lebanon have for years wielded 425 as a diplomatic club against Israel, while ignoring its objective of returning "effective authority" to the Lebanese government. But now, following Israel's increasingly vocal acceptance of 425, Syria and Lebanon are in the absurd position of saying no to an Israeli withdrawal, while claiming that the resolution does not mean what it plainly says.

The second line of opposition, that the Israeli initiative is meant to distract from the lack of progress on the Palestinian track, also does not hold much water. The proposal certainly is an effort to show some movement on the peace process, but the reasons to look for a solution to the Lebanese quagmire stand on their own. The fact that the proposal holds diplomatic advantages for Israel does not detract from its credibility.

Though the proposal has hardly been embraced in Europe or the United States, a realization seems to be taking hold that Israel is sincerely looking to implement 425, in all its parts. Multiple, high-profile meetings between Syria and Lebanon indicate that Syria is having some difficulty convincing Lebanon not to explore this diplomatic opportunity, despite its clear sovereign interests.

Then, with Netanyahu and Mordechai already deeply involved in pressing forward internationally on the proposal, along comes Sharon with his own plan.

Though Sharon denies it is a plan for a unilateral withdrawal, the difference between his and the government's plan is precisely over this issue. As Sharon puts it, "the best thing would be [a withdrawal] by agreement, but if we don't come to an agreement, Israel still has options." This is essentially what Labor MK Yossi Beilin has been saying for some time, without shying away from calling it a unilateral withdrawal.

Beilin's plan is to withdraw at once to the international border without an international agreement, but with the expectation that an expanded UNIFIL and the Lebanese army would fill the vacuum in a "back-to-back" deployment, once Israel is out. Further, the US would be called upon to threaten sanctions against Syria if it takes advantage of the withdrawal to sponsor attacks against Israel.

If anything, Sharon's plan, though he emphasizes its staged character, is Beilin-minus. As so far publicized by Sharon himself, it does not include either expanded UN, American, or French involvement, but rather is based solely on the threat of the Israeli reoccupation of the security zone.

With respect to the government's plan, Sharon's bombshell cuts both ways.

It undermines the government's pursuit of an agreement, because why would Lebanon or other countries come to an agreement if Israel's most prominent hawk is willing to withdraw without one? On the other hand, Sharon's backing of a unilateral withdrawal adds momentum to the idea of withdrawal generally, and credibility to the government's willingness to withdrawal in particular.

Even if Sharon's proposal turns out to have backhandedly helped the government's diplomacy, it is hardly a model of team play. Worse, it looks like an attempt to compete for the limelight with Mordechai and Netanyahu, rather than a constructive effort at shaping policy.

Justified responses

YOSEF GOELL

On his radio program last Friday, singer Yehoram Gaon suggested that it would have been a nice gesture had Prime Minister Netanyahu paid condolence calls on the families of the Palestinian workers killed by IDF soldiers at the Tarkumiya checkpost last Tuesday.

Had he done so, he would have emulated the impressive behavior of Jordan's King Hussein who paid such condolence calls last year on the families of the Israeli schoolgirls killed by a Jordanian soldier near Naharayim.

The king's action had a tremendous impact on Israeli public opinion, but I am not certain whether a visit by Netanyahu to the bereaved families in the town of Dura would have had the same impact. Nonetheless, it is very important for our leaders, in spite of all the security risks involved, to seek to humanize rather than demonize our relations with the Arabs, and especially with our Palestinian neighbors-cum-enemies.

Who knows? Some gesture of this kind might break the ice in the direction of hammering out a workable *modus vivendi* between us.

But the initial reaction of the IDF commander of the Central Command, to order the detention of the soldiers responsible for the shooting at the checkpost, was utterly reprehensible. If there was any Israeli malfeasance in the incident – and I suspect that there was none, given the recent alerts against impending terrorist actions – it was not on the part of the soldiers, who were doing their duty in a difficult and potentially dangerous situation, but on the part of their commanders. Such responsibility would go up to OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan himself, who had not proven superhuman in foreseeing all possible eventualities at the checkpost.

From the beginning, it was clear that the soldiers had acted meticulously in carrying out their orders and reacting in a split-second, as they had been trained to do. The van driven by a Palestinian driver had broken out from the queue of waiting Palestinian vehicles and was careening madly into the checkpost hut, with the seeming intention of running down the unit commander.

There have been many such attacks by car in the territories before. Under such circumstances, soldiers are under orders to shoot to kill. And rightly so.

To cast even the slightest suspicions on soldiers acting correctly under orders is to willfully undermine the most basic aspects of morale in the army. The checkposts are there to minimize the possible infiltration of Palestinian terrorists under the guise of Palestinian workers coming into Israel. Any suspicious departure from routine in such situations can only lead to the gunning down of potential terrorists – or to tragedy, as in the present case, in which the Palestinian workers in the van turned out to be innocent of such intentions.

To cast even the slightest suspicions on soldiers acting correctly under orders is to willfully undermine the most basic aspects of morale in the army

It must be reiterated time and again: The very potential for such tragedy stems from the murderous hostility of the Arabs and Palestinians to our very existence as a Jewish state and as individual Jews in the region.

Hopefully, this hostility will disappear if and when peace comes. Until it does, the potential for such tragedies will continue to exist, although we should do our utmost to prevent them.

When they do occur, it is important that we be capable of openly empathizing with the victims, but also of not tearing ourselves apart masochistically over the tragic results of actions that are dictated by the need to defend ourselves against continuing terrorism that is not a figment of our imagination.

THE same Yehoram Gaon resigned as the presenter of the Channel One documentary series, *T'kuma*, which seeks to recount the story of the creation of Israel 50 years ago and its subsequent growth. Gaon's introductions have been far too saccharine for my tastes, but I fully agree with his complaint that he could no longer go along with the series' pro-Palestinian bias.

I have not yet seen the chapters on the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and on the intifada, which were reportedly the straw that broke Gaon's back; but I did see the chapters on the War of Independence and on the period of military government in the areas populated by Israeli Arabs.

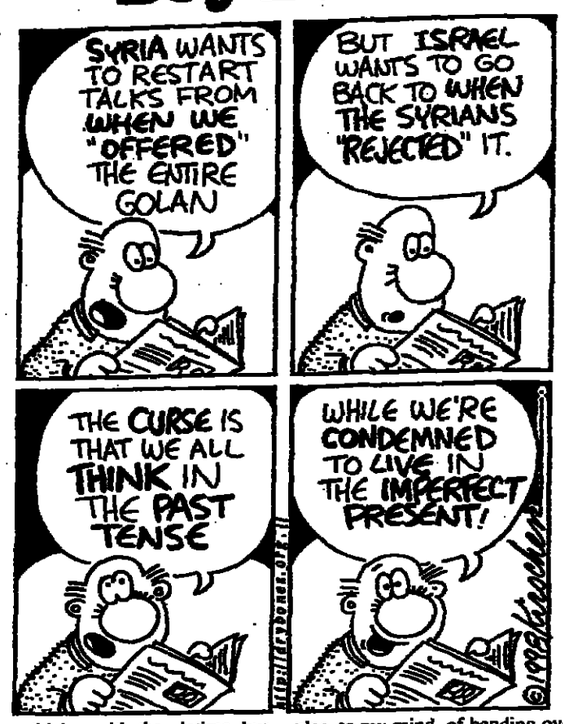
They were reprehensible examples, to my mind, of bending over backwards in reporting the suffering of the Palestinians without making the slightest effort to emphasize the point that they brought the tragedy on themselves by initiating the wars against us.

I can and do empathize with fellow human beings and neighbors, but I have no intention of apologizing for winning wars which they, in their murderous stupidity, launched against us.

It is important that we Israelis understand why the Palestinians chafe under our continued occupation – which has been minimized in recent years. But it is equally important that the Palestinians – and we Israelis – understand that our "occupation" of those territories was fully justified as a response to King Hussein's unprovoked attack on Israeli Jerusalem in 1967, which the Palestinians backed with such enthusiasm.

The writer comments on current affairs.

Dry Bones



Rewarding PA street violence

AARON LERNER

There is something pathetic about the praise which some quarters have given the Palestinian Authority (PA) for their supposedly moderate response to the shooting incident in Tarkumiya.

Let's get something straight right up front: What happened in Tarkumiya has nothing to do with the Arab-Israeli conflict or itchy IDF trigger fingers. If a van waiting for the US Customs inspection on the Detroit side of the Windsor Tunnel were to suddenly bolt the line and plow into a customs inspector, there is every reason to expect that the police on the scene would draw and fire their weapons in an attempt to stop the vehicle. And just as a sticky gas pedal in Detroit would have spelled death, that mechanical defect killed three innocent Palestinian workers.

Period.

The official, repeat – official – Palestinian response to the incident was a series of incendiary statements and claims against Israel. Murder charges which could but only be seen by the Palestinian street as a call to arms.

And with the details of the incident so clearly pointing to a case of tragedy rather than crime, Yasser Arafat's call for a murder trial adds only fuel to the flames.

Yes, the PA prevented the crowds – which it whipped up – from reaching Joseph's Tomb in Nablus. But, if anything, this only shows that the rioting, firebombs and shootings which did take place in other locations under the watchful eyes of the PA "police" could have been prevented.

Last Friday's *Ha'aretz* features two photographs by Yoav Lemmer which symbolize the situation.

It seems that as far as the policy makers are concerned, as long as no one is killed, the bombs and bullets raining on Hebron's Jews are at most a nuisance

The front-page photo shows a Palestinian in a clash with IDF soldiers in Bethlehem, about to shoot his slingshot. Behind him we see hunched down a Palestinian "policeman" of the same age in combat dress, with his Kalashnikov assault rifle and two magazines at the ready.

Lemmer told me that the Palestinian with the slingshot was shooting rocks at IDF soldiers and the latter were responding with rubber bullets.

"What was the Palestinian policeman doing?" I asked Lemmer, thinking that perhaps the policeman acted to stop the slingshot assault.

"He was protecting him. The distance between rubber bullets and live ammunition is very little. His presence stops the soldiers from responding with more than rubber bullets. And if the rock shooter is hit by a rubber bullet he will help him." The same Palestinian "policeman" can be seen on an inside page providing cover for a masked rock thrower.

IF this is considered a praiseworthy or moderate response by some, then what happened in Hebron this past week should come as no surprise.

For days the Jewish community there has been under assault. They have been hit by rocks, firebombs, explosives and weapons fire from the Abu Sneinah area which is now under Palestinian control as per the Hebron Accord.

And the Israeli response? Hebron Jewish community spokesman Noam Arnon told me that he has no complaints against the soldiers in the field who work day and night to protect the community. The problem is higher up, where the decision has been made not to exercise the right of hot pursuit or to insist on the implementation of the buffer areas which were supposed to provide some protection for the Jewish community.

Now the Jewish community is being criticized for walking into the Palestinian-controlled H-1 area to draw attention to their plight. But unfortunately, this seems to be the only way to get action from the government.

It is highly doubtful that the situation in Hebron would have been even raised at the weekly cabinet meeting if not for the headlines.

It seems that as far as the policy makers are concerned, as long as no one is killed, the bombs and bullets raining on the Jews of the Hebron area, or for that matter anywhere, are at most a nuisance.

Now don't get me wrong. It's not that the government has picked the settlers for special treatment. This is just the way things are in Israel. Unless a wheel really squeaks it is ignored.

But does neglecting the PA's cynical manipulation of the Palestinian street promote the peace process? Far from it.

Rewarding street violence today would only encourage it in the future.

The writer is the director of IMRA (Independent Media Review & Analysis).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PARANOIA

Sir, – Sinn Fein was recently expelled from peace talks because of murders of innocent civilians alleged to have been carried out by the IRA. Sinn Fein's claim that, as the political wing of the IRA, they are not responsible for terrorist acts fell on deaf ears. The world applauds Great Britain for its tough stance in ejecting Sinn Fein from further talks.

Hamas and other groups murder innocent Jews and the PA claims that, as the political wing of the Palestinian movement, they are not responsible for terrorist acts. Israel insists that these murders stop in order for peace talks to continue. The world castigates Israel for its intransigent position in holding up the progress of peace talks.

Jews are often criticized as being unnecessarily paranoid about world politics. However, as we see situations such as these unfold, I am simply reminded of the saying, "Just because you're paranoid, doesn't mean they're not out to get you."

STUART R. GOLDSTEIN

Ramat Yishai.

NETANYAHU'S CREDIT

Sir, – Yossi Beilin's article, "It's never his fault" (Feb. 24), is a prosecutor's closing speech, a unilateral indictment of Binyamin Netanyahu.

It passes over Netanyahu's achievements and the failings of the opposition. Beilin, who is the principal architect responsible for the Oslo agreements, need be reminded that a lawyer or a diplomat worthy of his name would have never agreed to give back 90 percent of territory occupied in a defensive war while the discussion of the vital questions such as Jerusalem, the definitive borders and the Palestinian state, will be reserved until Israel has no more something to offer. The Oslo agreements in this form were suicidal for Israel.

It is to the credit of Netanyahu that he stopped these processes and proposed to discuss the final questions when Israel still holds some cards, something to negotiate about.

RENE' WEIL

Jerusalem.

WAKE UP!

Sir, – The horrible fate of young Noa Eyal should shake up our entire country! The time has come to establish one million "safe" homes all over Israel

Over 50 years ago, almost any home in the *yishuv* picked at random could serve as such a home, available for lodging or food – day or night – in an emergency.

Just suppose that young innocent Noa could have had this option after she missed the last midnight bus in Ramot. She looks about and spots a blue and white *heh* reflecting over a window. Noah knocks or rings and a stranger responds to her need. She doesn't have to take her life in her hand trusting a lift offered her in the dark.

Is there no one out there to take up this call for action now to establish "safe houses" all over Israel!

NORMAN SAMSON

Jerusalem.

MISERABLE FARE

Sir, – While "channel surfing," could your television columnist get someone in authority to explain why our annual TV license and monthly cable TV subscription bring such miserable film fare in return?

According to *Arutzei Zahav*, Movie Channel features are shown three or four times in succession, but *Truman* was never repeated and the up-to-date Claude Lelouch version of *Les Miserables* (screened on January 13) has not been seen again. Who knows why?

Unlike the usual murder-and-violence tripe, good movies of Jewish interest such as *Yentl* turn up only once in a blue moon. That being the case, why must Channel One invariably screen them on Shabbat, giving no thought to observant Jewish viewers?

DR. GABRIEL A. SIVAN

Jerusalem.

FEEL THE DIFFERENCE

Sir, – Well done Mr. Rosenblum on your stunning article "Of yuppies and haredim," (Feb. 20).

In simpler form only study, questioning, understanding and participation of Torah will bring life's desperately sought satisfaction to Oz Almog and his followers.

May I challenge them to try it and feel the difference.

TZILA COTTON

Tel Aviv.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On March 16, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that thousands of Jewish secondary school and university students, accompanied by their teachers, reported for field work at various agricultural settlements throughout the country.

50 years ago: On March 16, 1948, *The Palestine Post* quoted the British Army report that its evacuation from Palestine would be completed by August 1, if the movement of troops continued at the present rate, and that Haifa would continue to serve as the port of embarkation.

25 years ago: On March 16, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that two Arabs were arrested as they entered France in a car containing undeclared and well hidden explosives which the police said were destined to blow up the Israeli Embassy in Paris.

Alexander Zvielli

Back to space

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

The unmanned spacecraft *Lunar Prospector* has just confirmed the astonishing discovery of water on the moon. Almost as astonishing is the fact that Prospector is the first NASA spacecraft – manned or unmanned – to visit the moon since the last *Apollo* mission in 1972. How did this happen? How could we have undertaken the most extraordinary exploration in the history of our species and then abandoned it so completely for a quarter-century?

The letdown after winning the race to the moon is, of course, a large part of the reason. But overlooked is the curiously retrograde role played by that famous picture of earth taken by the Apollo 8 astronauts. "Earthrise" celebrated our home planet as it rightly is: warm, cozy, safe, blessed. Yet, ironically, it created a preemptive nostalgia for earth just as we were beginning to leave it.

It is no accident that Earthrise became such an icon, particularly for the Left and for the environmental movement. It offered the cosmic equivalent of George McGovern's call to "Come Home, America." It was a call we obeyed with obscene haste after just six landings in four years. Since then and until Prospector, nothing – no return to the moon, no thought of returning to the moon. Why, after all, go back out into space? The near solar system appeared completely inhospitable. It offered either the 800-degree sulfuric hell of Venus – the climate of Sodom and Gomorrah minus the fun – or the arid barrenness of the moon and Mars. Airless rock gardens vs. the warm fecund earth: no contest.

Turns out we were wrong. The nearby solar system contains something that cries out for our return: water, and maybe life.

The water on the moon is not exactly Lake Tahoe. There are neither liquid seas nor sheets of ice, just a dusting of frozen water, the residue of numberless crashed comets, spread over acres of sunless craters at the north and south poles.

The stuff might be hard to sift and gather, but it nonetheless provides for the first time the basis for lunar life: human life, independent colonies sustained by water and the life-giving oxygen and power-giving hydrogen that it yields.

Water on the moon – and, almost simultaneously, even better news from Jupiter: The Galileo spacecraft, zipping by the moon Europa for the fourth time, returns close-up pictures suggesting that under its icy crust lies an ocean of slush and perhaps even water, the perfect medium for life.

LIFE, not fossil but real, possibly just two planets away. With findings like these, we must go back to the moon to see if it can sustain a human colony, and to Europa, with probes onto and below the surface, to see what lives.

We must. No more lugging wrenches to an orbiting wreck called Mir. Our aspirations have been stuck in low-earth orbit for so long that the one major project on our horizon is the space station, an enormous boondoggle whose purpose has shrunk to vanishing. Its main point now is to foster international cooperation. Twenty-one billion dollars for a weightless United Nations. Don't we have one of those already?

And now the great news: Just as new scientific evidence beckons us yonder, spaceflight is back in vogue. It began with the movie *Apollo 13*, which taught a new generation and reminded an old one that manned spaceflight is not a fancy trucking service but high human adventure. And it continues with a 12-part HBO series on the moon race produced by Tom Hanks. The turmoil and upheaval of the '60s, explains Hanks, overshadowed the beauty and glory of Apollo.

So turns the Zeitgeist. Why, even sending John Glenn back into space will renew excitement. It's a stunt, of course, dangerous and scientifically unnecessary. But then again, Glenn's first flight was something of a stunt too – and thrilling nonetheless.

Moreover, Glenn's coming flight might make Americans ponder this: He first blasted into space just 59 years after Kitty Hawk; now, a full 36 years later, this same man is making basically the same trip. Why have we been treading water?

No longer. We are coming out of our torpor. Perhaps it is the domesticity, the ennui, the very ordinariness of prosperous, peaceful, post-Cold War life – the kind of ennui that makes a White House sex scandal achieve the proportions of the Normandy invasion – that is making us receptive once again to an enterprise that is all striving and danger and glory. Whatever the reason – Hollywood fashion, Glenn's flight, moon water, Europan life – space is back.

How lucky we are.

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Pox Americana

A World Made Safe For, Uh, Whatever

By STEVEN ERLANGER

WASHINGTON

THE end of the cold war was supposed to bring not only a peace dividend, with less money spent on defense, but a sort of moral dividend, too. The United States, which had suppressed its ethical standards in the higher battle against godless Communism, was now supposed to be able to pick its friends with a little more discretion.

When the Soviet Union loomed, Washington considered any enemy of my enemy my friend. Americans not only helped install Mobutu Sese Seko in Zaire but kept him there, ignoring whatever democratic pleas and whimpers emerged from the repression. Americans gave the Shah of Iran everything he wanted, and reaped Ayatollah Khomeini.

Americans embraced Batista in Cuba and Somoza in Nicaragua and Pinochet in Chile and Saddam Hussein (back then) in Iraq. Americans spent their blood for the kleptocratic generals of South Vietnam.

But either the post-Soviet world is more complex than Americans can handle, or bad old habits die hard.

The United States now has working arrangements with Laurent Kabila, the ruthless new leader of Congo; with a Colombian military that commits human-rights abuses even as it claims to pursue terrorists and drug lords; with Alberto Fujimori of Peru, who has sliced away at democracy in the name of stability, and with numerous others, not forgetting President Suharto of Indonesia, whose 32-year autocracy has enriched his family, and whose nation's economy is too important a domino to be allowed to fall.

In recent weeks, as the Serbs have cracked down on ethnic Albanians in Kosovo province, America has been relearning the cost of such expediency. Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader who opened Pandora's box in the Balkans knowing full well what was inside, wasn't installed by the United States. But to stop the genocide without endangering American forces, Washington had to make him a partner and a statesman three years ago, in the Dayton accords, and it needs him still.

In other words, nearly a decade after the Berlin Wall fell, the United States is still keeping some sordid company — or at least, by dealing seriously with people like Mr. Milosevic as partners, helping to prop them up.

Status Quo Meets Guilt

But if the results are similar, the rationales have become more complicated. They range from trade and stability to the stroking of allies and the fight against drugs. The fact remains that the United States, because of its dominance, is heavily invested in the status quo.

Instability by itself is perceived as dangerous, and American Administrations, Republican or Democratic, tend to bet on what they know, fearing that what may succeed Suharto, for example, might be worse — like what replaced Somoza and the Shah.

But given America's moral tradition — churchgoing, charitable, Wilsonian — the United States is a status quo power with a uniquely guilty conscience.

So even when Washington deals with a regime it despises (Nigeria, say, for its oil, or Mr. Milosevic's Serbia for its influence) it feels free to make moral accusations that seem to have no real influence on fundamental policy.

It's hard to keep to a moral grid when more secular interests get in the way. "It's an old-fashioned thought, but we can't remake the world," said Morton I. Abramowitz, a senior fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations and a former State Department mandarin. "You still have to balance your priorities, and some fall to the bottom. It's hard, and you open yourself to terrible charges of hypocrisy. And it's even harder in these days, because our priorities that we balance — human rights, democratization, economic growth, security, stability — take on a different value in the post-cold war world. There's less urgency, and domestic issues matter more."

The American tradition has always combined a stark moralism (and a high degree of self-righteousness) with a hard-driving, mercantile spirit. This was Protestant capitalism, in the sociologist Max Weber's terms,

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Gary Hallgren

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In Cold Facts, Some 'Nonfiction' Books Falter

By BEN YAGODA

THE Clutters, a Kansas farm family, were all murdered during a botched robbery one day in 1959. Truman Capote spent several years investigating the crime, and emerged with "In Cold Blood," which was published in the New Yorker in 1965 and then in a book Mr. Capote called a nonfiction novel.

The first chapter has a detailed account of the Clutters' comings and goings on the day they were to die. If you go to the New York Public Library, where New Yorker documents are housed, you can see the galley proofs on which William Shawn, the magazine's editor, first read Mr. Capote's work. In the margins, next to descriptions of the words and thoughts of the Clutters, Mr. Shawn repeatedly wrote, in his famous small print: "How know? d[iscuss] w/author."

Any discussion he did have with Mr. Capote is lost to history. What is verifiable is that no changes were made on that galley, and that "In Cold Blood" was published, to much fanfare, with statements that were patently a matter of educated conjecture.

Twenty-one years earlier, in 1944, the same New Yorker (then consolidating its reputation as a journal in which every fact was checked for accuracy) published Joseph Mitchell's profile of Hugh G. Flood, a retired house-wrecking contractor, aged 93. Accompanying the article was an illustration of Mr. Flood.

Several years later, when Mr. Mitchell collected three pieces about Mr. Flood in a book, he wrote this in an author's note: "Mr. Flood is not one man; combined in him are aspects of several old men who work or hang out in the Fulton Fish Market, or who did in the past."

Associated Press

Author Truman Capote.

Blurred Line

More than 200 years before that, in 1722, a book called "A Journal of the Plague Year" was published. It purported to be an account of a London resident about the events of 1664-65, the year of the Great Plague. It was actually written by Daniel Defoe, who in 1664 was 4 years old.

More than 2,000 years before *that*, in the fifth century B.C., Thucydides wrote his history of the Peloponnesian Wars, which the "Oxford Companion to English Literature" cites for its "scrupulous accuracy."

In Book I, the author writes the following: "As to the speeches which were made either before or during the war, it was hard for me, and for others who reported them to me, to recollect the exact words. I have therefore put into the mouth of each speaker the sentiments proper to the occasion, expressed as I thought he would be likely to express them."

That backward procession — to which considerably more examples could be added — gives some perspective to the recent concern that the line between fact and fiction has blurred, with the implication that something has gone horribly wrong in the modern age of media and hype.

Ostensible Nonfiction

Every year or two there seems to be a new to-do about factual shortcomings of greater or lesser proportion in ostensibly nonfiction books — for example, Lorenzo Carcaterra's "Sleepers," Joe McGinniss's "The Last Brother" and, most recently, John Berendt's "Midnigh. in the Garden of Good and Evil," which has been allowed to remain on the nonfiction best-seller list for nearly four years despite the author's admission that he fiddled with chronology and invented at least one conversation.

There are only two ways of reporting on past events that can aspire to complete accuracy. The first is being there. The second is attributing all statements about what occurred, was said or was thought to named sources — the journalistic equivalent of footnotes.

The trouble is, this method leads to hopelessly and endlessly clunky formulations like, "Mr. X said, 'Hello,' Mr. Y recalled." That being the case, it has generally been recognized since Thucydides's day that a degree of poetic license is necessary in the form called (for lack of a better term) literary journalism. John Hersey's novelistic "Hiroshima," initially published in The New Yorker in 1946, was grounded in extensive reporting and interviewing.

But because the narrative was based on his sources' memories of the immediate aftermath of the most horrific event in world history — with dialogue translated from the Japanese — the account wasn't expected to be accurate in every detail.

What has changed since then is not the practice of literary journalism but expectations about truth. They began to be raised, curiously, by "In Cold Blood," at least as important an event in the history of publicity as in the history of journalism.

At the time of publication, the book received inordinate attention for what was called Mr. Capote's meticulous accuracy and total recall, which obviated the need for note-taking.

But now the documented list of Mr. Capote's alterations and fabrications (including a graveside conversation) grows longer each year. Nevertheless, the book made it seem possible to have both the literary qualities and readability of fiction and the seal-of-approval accuracy of journalism, all without having to resort to those pesky attributions.

It has led to shelves full of novelistic books like Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein's "The Final Days" (their follow-up to "All the President's Men") and "Indecent Exposure," by David McClintick, which are followed or preceded by lengthy author's notes explaining how many people were interviewed and what standards of accuracy were applied.

Mr. Woodward and Mr. Bernstein said they used at least two sources to verify each fact — a problematic assertion when you consider the scene in which a drunken Richard Nixon breaks down and weeps in front of Lincoln's portrait.

Clearly, Henry Kissinger, who was with Nixon, was one source; just as clearly, Nixon was not the other. The internal evidence suggested that the second source was an aide to whom Mr. Kissinger related the incident. Is that any less blurry than John Berendt's playing with chronology in "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil"?

Ben Yagoda is a journalism professor at the University of Delaware.

The World

It's Chevalier Lewis, If You Don't Mind

By ALAN RIDING

PARIS

SURELY it is satisfying enough just to be rich, famous, photographed and admired, to possess the mysterious status of celebrity that turns heads at restaurants and gives weight to even the lightest of opinions. But, no, there can be more. Thanks to Europe's bountiful honors systems, celebrities can also aspire to ancient titles, medals and ribbons as more solemn recognition of their talent than, say, harassment by paparazzi.

Britain has found that rewarding its actors, singers and playwrights is a good way to keep the circus alive. Europe's most formal monarchy also offers the best titles. The handle of lord, sir or dame is far more useful than a simple medal. After all, medals are usually kept in drawers, awaiting those rare occasions that announce "Medals shall be worn." But everyone immediately knows when Mr. Smith is elevated to Sir John.



Chevalier Stallone

For American entertainers, though, France is the best place to go in search of adornments that proclaim admission to the cultural pantheon. For reasons that do not seem to jell with the French view that American popular culture poses a threat to civilization, France seems keen to honor show-business celebrities, with Michael Douglas the latest Chevalier — or knight — de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. Indeed, there are already enough Chevaliers in Beverly Hills to form a small cavalry.

Still, even as Hollywood prepares to honor its own next week at the Academy Awards, it is no mystery why famous names are delighted to accept bizarre titles rooted in Europe's religious, military and imperial history: an honor is an honor, no matter how meaningless it seems before one is so honored.

More puzzling is why the honors systems in Britain and France have opted for populism. Could it be that in today's media-blasted world, it is celebrities who give the glitter to titles that might otherwise have lost their allure?

It certainly helps when celebrities show they care. Last year, Robert De Niro felt privileged to be made a Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur (one step higher than Mr. Douglas's "cultural" knighthood). So when the actor was detained by the police in Paris last month and questioned about an international prostitution ring, his furious reprisal against France was an announcement that he would return his Légion d'Honneur. (The Grande Chancellerie de la Légion d'Honneur, which administers the award, says it has yet to hear from him.)

Coincidentally, Sean Connery was learning that he had just been denied a British knighthood. The big screen's first Agent 007 seemed a natural candidate for such a title: "The name is Connery, Sir Sean Connery." But it was not to be. His friends said he was vetoed because he supports the pro-independence Scottish Nationalist Party, while British newspapers said it was because he once suggested "an open-handed slap" as a good antidote to "hysterical" women. Either way, Mr. Connery felt miffed.

After all, a good many of his British friends are already peers, knights and dames of stage and screen. With Lord (Richard) Attenborough and Lord (David) Putnam presiding, today's round table could include actors like John Gielgud, Alec Guinness, Anthony Hopkins and Judi Dench; the director Peter Hall, and the playwright Tom Stoppard. Then there are show-biz knights like Sir Paul McCartney and, most recently, Sir Elton John.

France also looks after its own stars, from Alain Delon to Johnny Hallyday, but any American movie celebrity with a following in France can also now count on a nod. Among those who have collected medals at the Ministry of Culture are Gregory Peck, Kirk Douglas and Jerry Lewis, along with Sylvester Stallone, Clint Eastwood, Charlton Heston and Sharon Stone, and directors like Francis Ford Coppola, Martin Scorsese and that Left Bank perennial, Woody Allen.

What tends to get lost in the klieg lights is that Europe's honors systems are as useful to those who give as to those who receive. A credible honors list reflects well on governments. In Britain and France, but also in most other European countries, assorted titles and medals routinely go to people perceived to have done some useful service to nation, society or community.

When 10 Downing Street drew up its annual New Year honors list recently, for example, it included a knighthood for "services to the alcoholic drinks industry" and a more modest award for "assistance to the homeless."

No less traditional are awards destined for foreign diplomats and friendly heads of state. Former Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush can boast the title of Knight Grand Cross, Order of the Bath, in Britain (although they cannot be called sir) and the Grande Croix de l'Ordre de la Légion d'Honneur in France. But in a number of countries, titles are also valued rewards for political favors and loyalty (albeit no longer openly sold, as in the days of the British Prime Minister Lloyd George).



Associated Press

Jerry Lewis was made a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 1984.

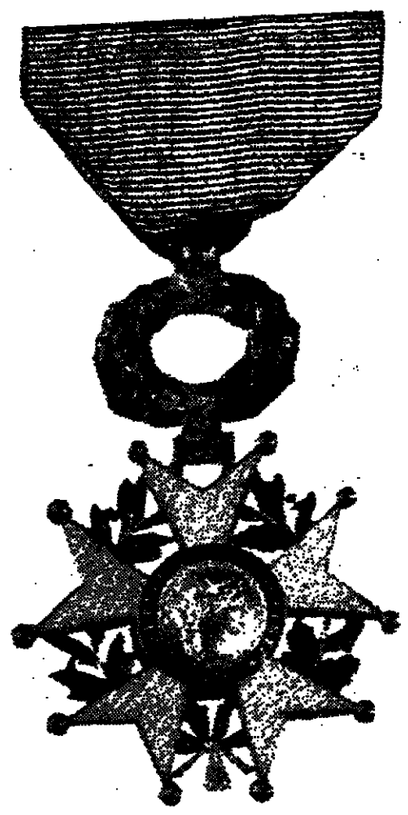
"The problem is, no one knows the rules in Britain," said Harold Brooks-Baker, a director of Burke's Peerage and an avid student of Britain's class structure. "The whole system should be simplified. At present, the public can promote names for lesser honors. But knighthoods and peerages still go to either the famous or party hacks. I believe there should be a separate committee answerable to the Queen that has nothing to do with politicians."



Chevalier Allen

The proof of the enduring mystique of such honors is that rejection of an award often brings headlines. Some years ago, the actor John Cleese turned down a Companion of the British Empire, a title one rank below knighthood, quipping that his only aspiration was to be an Archduke. More recently, the popular French novelist Bernard Clavel refused a Légion d'Honneur, a title that, unlike the cultural awards in arts and letters, was originated by Napoleon to reward military bravery. "My Uncle Charles, who died in the trenches in 1914, would turn in his grave if he saw me wearing the same ribbon as he did," Mr. Clavel said. "It wasn't created for novelists."

So is it fair to suggest that celebrities have cheapened the currency of such honors? Probably not. Throughout European history, titles have gone to both the deserving and undeserving. When monarchs had power, they were distributed among favorite nobles and victorious generals. Today, governments can still look after their friends, but they must also answer to public opinion — or at least, in Britain's case, to the jury of tabloid headline writers.



The Légion d'Honneur.

The Vatican, however, hands out papal knighthoods largely to seal political alliances. Over the centuries, honors like the Supreme Order of Christ and the Order of the Golden Spur, were routinely given to "Christian heads of state." Today, the Holy See still grants the Order of St. Gregory the Great and the Order of St. Sylvester to people of "personal character and reputation." But it is done almost secretly. Awards are announced — in Latin — in Acta Apostolicae Sedis, the Vatican's official gazette, while ceremonies usually take place in private. So it is difficult to know if two recent papal knights, Bob Hope and Rupert Murdoch, were typical choices.



Ex-Chevalier De Niro

The United Nations, in contrast, likes to publicize its awards to celebrities, but the recipients must also do something in return. As far back as 1957, for instance, Danny Kaye was Unicef's first good-will ambassador to needy children; he was followed by Audrey Hepburn, Sir Peter Ustinov, Harry Belafonte and others. Similarly, Unesco, the United Nations' cultural arm, has Catherine Deneuve and Mstislav Rostropovich among its good-will envoys.

Just this month, the United Nations designated Luciano Pavarotti a "messenger of peace" for giving concerts in Bosnia and Liberia and for creating a "safer and more stable world" though his music. It seemed like the perfect honor: both awarder and awardee looked good. No wonder the Italian tenor was beaming.

When Bad Things Happen to German People

Where a Lawsuit Can't Get Any Respect

By EDMUND L. ANDREWS

KRONBERG, Germany

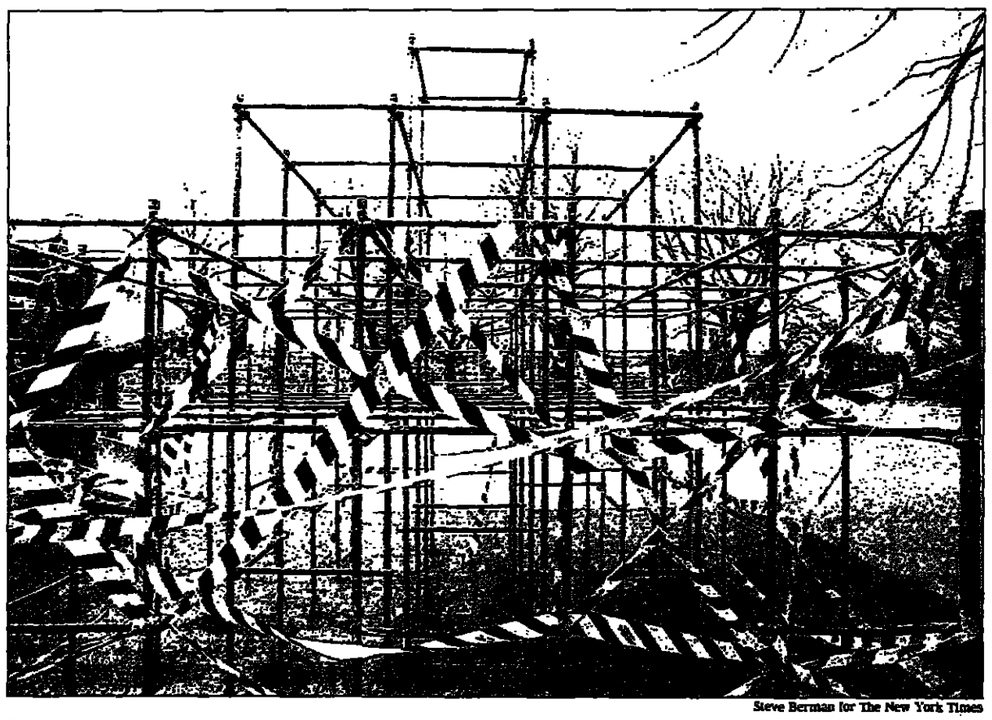
FOR those who wonder what life might be like if American lawyers had their wings clipped, a visit to almost any German playground or swimming pool is instructive.

At the Opel Zoo, a petting zoo and playground in this suburb outside Frankfurt, one of the most popular attractions is an army-style cable ride. Children climb up a six-foot-high platform, grab a bar that hangs from an overhead pulley, and then whizz down a 40-foot cable as if they were Green Berets vaulting a treacherous gorge. The ride comes to a jolting and thrilling stop when the pulley smacks into a rubber tire about 10 feet off the ground. The bar and child swing wildly in all directions before gradually coming to a rest.

The ride is just one example of a striking contrast between the United States and most other countries. Playgrounds here are more fun — and more dangerous. So are swimming pools. High diving boards, all but banished in the United States, are still common here.

And lifeguards almost never blow their whistles. Cannonball in a crowded area? No problem. Water wrestling among teen-agers? Perfectly fine. Lifeguards don't sit watch from a tower, whistles gripped in their teeth to issue instant shrill warnings. Many spend much of their time in glass booths, keeping casual watch while they take care of pool maintenance.

But the darker side of the system is equally clear: if a child drowns or cracks a head or becomes paralyzed for life, don't expect a swimming pool, a playground or even a doctor to take the blame.



Steve Berman for The New York Times

Considered too dangerous, monkey bars at Manhattan's Riverside Park were draped with police tape in 1996.

Avoiding Life's Risks

"Accidents happen, they are a fact of life," said Ulrich Weiskopf, a judge in the nearby town of Koenigstein. "There is a general risk in life. And if you try to avoid all of life's risks, you avoid its rewards as well."

If something bad happens at a playground, Germans have very little hope of pinning the blame on the playground or a jungle-gym manufacturer. Nor can they bankroll their legal efforts through American-style contingency fees, in which lawyers charge nothing but demand a chunk of any money their clients win. Even if a person does prove a case of negligence, courts offer little financial compensation for pain and suffering, and no punitive damages for negligence.

This approach is not unique to Germany. Manfred Wandt, a professor of comparative law at Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt, said that most European courts embrace similar principles. The result, he said, is that many forms of activity are freer and less restricted here than in the United States. "In the United States, people who are careful have to suffer as a result of the people who are not careful," he added. "The advantage of the system here is that people can partake in activities that are now hard to find in the United States, like jumping off a high-dive. The disadvantage is that our system creates a greater danger."

But in many ways, Germans are at least as litigious as Americans. Germans routinely carry lawyers' insurance, which pays their legal fees if they sue or get sued. But when Germans sue each other, the stakes are comparatively small. Americans sue big companies, government agencies and doctors, and the stakes are routinely millions of dollars.

The two views of litigation stem from profoundly different beliefs about responsibility and risk. Consider the case of H, a young boy in Koblenz who apparently drowned after sliding down a 70-meter waterslide. The case, which began in 1987, was one of the few significant court battles involving pool injuries. German court decisions do not reveal the identity of the individuals.

It is not clear exactly what happened to H. But according to the decision, he was on a field trip with a group of children. Shortly after arriving, he was discovered unconscious at the bottom of the pool near the waterslide. Though the pool managers claimed to have people watching both ends of the waterslide, H stayed under water long enough to sustain severe brain injuries. After five years of fruitless medical care, he died from complications of his injuries.

A local court and later a federal appeals court ruled that the pool was not liable. The appeals court said that children must learn responsibility and that supervisors might hinder development if they watch too closely.

The Limits of Duty

Or consider the case of X, a 30-year-old bicycle rider who had become confined to a wheelchair after a spinal injury and had flirted with ideas of suicide. X became even more gravely injured when he climbed into an unattended pool at a rehabilitation clinic and couldn't get his head above water. By the time clinic workers found him face down in the water, he had suffered brain injuries that left him unable to control even basic body movements.

X sued the clinic, saying it should never have let him enter the pool alone. Both the local court and an appellate court ruled for the clinic, noting that the swimming pool was surrounded by protective railings. X might have had a claim if he had been obviously suicidal, the court ruled, but this was no longer the case because he had appeared to have overcome his suicidal tendencies through intensive therapy. The upshot: no case.

"The duty of care does not depend on the merely abstract possibility that the plaintiff might fall from his wheelchair at the pool, but on sufficiently concrete and discernible evidence of such a danger," the court said.

Even when plaintiffs prove their cases, the victories are at best limited. N was a 10-year-old who went to a swimming pool in Aachen with her 9-year-old sister. N, who couldn't swim, fell into a deep part of the pool and couldn't get out. She and her sister both called for help, but one lifeguard was on a coffee break and two others were in a glass-enclosed office near the pool.

> The notion of a riskless society is a peculiarly American one.

Help didn't come until after the younger sister ran to the lifeguard's office, by which time N was unconscious and had to be pulled out of the water. She had permanent brain damage.

Even here, two lower courts ruled that pool officials were not responsible, accepting the pool manager's defense that the girls' cries for help were inaudible because the guards were behind a glass window. But in a rare victory for a consumer, an appeals court reversed those rulings and sent the case back to the lower court for a retrial.

The case has not been resolved. But German law provides very modest compensation, in part because the Government provides health care and relatively generous social security benefits.

A widely used table of injury awards provides a rough guide to the value of body parts. Permanent loss of an eye is worth about $20,000. Loss of an arm is about $25,000. Severe brain damage, leading to permanent and serious loss of capacity for speech, memory and control of body movements: $200,000.

And the concept of punitive damages, a foundation of American liability litigation, is virtually unheard of here. American plaintiffs can win staggering amounts of money in punitive damages, sometimes far more than they are awarded in actual damages. Punitive damages exist as a sort of product-safety enforcement measure, a reminder to businesses to produce safer products or face huge losses in court.

But no such worries trouble businesses on this side of the Atlantic.

The World

The Not-So-Superpower Society

By CRAIG R. WHITNEY

PARIS

"I GREW up with history, and I learned that since the 16th century, France and Russia have almost continuously been allies and friends," the late President François Mitterrand of France wrote in 1985 to Mikhail S. Gorbachev, then President of the Soviet Union. "History and geography dictate some things that are constant."

Another of those constants is American irritation with France, its oldest ally. Now that the Berlin Wall is gone, the entente between Paris and Moscow has sometimes seemed so warm lately that it has made policy makers in Washington get positively hot under the collar.

First France and Russia teamed up to thumb their noses at America by investing in an oil exploration project in Iran. They joined forces again to restrain American military might against Iraq in the dispute over United Nations arms inspections. Last week France and Russia were at it again, lukewarm about imposing sanctions against Serbia under American pressure to force President Slobodan Milosevic to stop armed attacks against the Albanian majority in Kosovo.

> French-Russian relations are uncommonly warm. This makes Washington hot.

At the height of the cold war in 1960, Charles de Gaulle expressed the vision of a Europe extending from the Atlantic to the Urals, and it has always made Americans a little uneasy.

That vision kept France with the United States on expanding the NATO alliance to include Poland and the Czech Republic, which the Senate is expected to ratify shortly, despite Russian objections, but on other issues France and Russia often seem to share a common perspective.

Painful Reminders

As frustrated former superpowers, they both hate to be reminded that they are no longer what they used to be — in France's case the Napoleonic Empire that dominated the continent almost two centuries ago, and in Russia's, the Soviet Union, which collapsed in 1991.

Every time the French hear the words "the world's only superpower" emanating from Washington, they wince, and as for the Russians, the phrase practically rubs their noses in their own loss of power and global influence, even though Russia does still have enough nuclear missiles to blow the world to smithereens.

Still, the French are American NATO allies, and the Russians, for all the Bill-and-Boris camaraderie at summit meetings, are still somewhere between friends and former adversaries.

And most important, French policy is not what it is toward Iraq, the Middle East generally, or Serbia because of its relationship with Russia. France has always tried to stake out a policy independent of Washington's in the Middle East because, as a regional power with European aspirations, it thinks the United States should not have a monopoly in an area that is also strategically important to Europe.

Trojan Horse

De Gaulle told an intimate, Alain Peyrefitte, 25 years ago that American enthusiasm for Europe was based on the assumption of dominance over it, through the British Trojan horse and through Germany, which he thought would always be too grovelingly grateful to the United States for saving it from complete Russian occupation after World War II.

"When they see a risk of their influence diminishing if Europe becomes a strong entity that could get along without them, they are less enthusiastic," he said, and of course he assumed that Europe would be led by France.

And de Gaulle, like Mr. Mitterrand after him, often used relations with Russia as a counterbalance to keep Washington from getting too overbearing.

Now it's Jacques Chirac's turn to prove his Gaullist mettle, which he did — with complete support from his Socialist Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin — by insisting to the Americans on trying United Nations diplomacy with Iraq, and then lending Secretary General Kofi Annan a French executive jet to go to Baghdad to do it, with full Russian backing. While Mr. Yeltsin ruled out supporting the use of force, Mr. Chirac cleverly hinted that France would reluctantly go along with it if all else failed.

Gallantly or hypocritically, Mr. Chirac and Mr. Annan said afterward that diplomacy would have been ineffective without the American big stick, but both of them are a lot more popular all over the Middle East these days than Bill Clinton is.

France joined the United States and Britain in the war against Iraq in 1991, but a lot of people here regret it. Now the French would like to get Saddam Hussein to comply with United Nations disarmament resolutions and then move on to rebuild the profitable trade relationship they had with Iraq back in 1975, when Mr. Chirac welcomed Saddam Hussein here as his "personal friend."

Russia would also like to rebuild its political influence and its trade with the Middle East. So it was no accident that it was a consortium of Russian oil interests, the French giant Total and Malaysian firms that joined last fall in defying the American trade embargo on Iran and investing $2 billion in an Iranian natural gas field.

Russia said last week that it would continue to defy American opposition to its helping Iran build a nuclear power plant, and should the United States decide this month to inflict sanctions on Total or other French and Russian interests under the despised extraterritorial Iran-Libya Sanctions Act, American relations with both France and Russia could enter one of their worst crises since the cold war.



Associated Press

Presidents Jacques Chirac of France and Boris N. Yeltsin of Russia last year: close for reasons old and new.

France and Russia were also allies in the Balkans in World War I, when both countries backed Serbia because Germany and Austria attacked it from Croatia. There are huge statues of two Yugoslavian kings, Peter I and Alexander I, down the street from where the NATO headquarters was in Paris, near the Bois de Boulogne, until de Gaulle kicked it out in 1966, and sentimental attachments die hard.

No Illusions

But after the bitter experience of sending thousands of soldiers to Bosnia under an ineffectual United Nations peacekeeping mandate, France no longer has any illusions about Mr. Milosevic, who gets more enthusiastic support from Moscow.

Still, when the United States pressed Russia and its three biggest European allies in London last week to impose sanctions against Serbia because of what happened in Kosovo, French and Russian policies again seemed to coincide.

France dislikes economic sanctions as a policy tool because, Mr. Chirac says, they make the country that imposes them feel good about itself without persuading tough guys like Mr. Hussein or Mr. Milosevic to change their ways.

Russia may have opposed sanctions not only because it would like to be seen as the Serbs' best friend in the Balkans but because it was the target of American-imposed sanctions itself in its Soviet past.

In the end, both France and Russia need the United States engaged in the Balkans to keep the lid on there, which is why both of them are eager participants in the NATO peacekeeping force that went into Bosnia in 1995. But if either France or Russia thought Europe could manage in the Balkans without American help, they would much prefer it.

Fortunately for Franco-American friendship, that day still seems far off.

In Its Dreams

Russia Solves Its Crime Problem

By ALESSANDRA STANLEY

Moscow

THE new, unlikeable boss of the Moscow police insists that a string of seven grisly murders is the work of one vicious serial killer. Nastya Kamenskaya, a top detective, is less sure. Slowly, surely, working her way through murky evidence, powerful mafia informants and a daily pack of menthol cigarettes, she cracks the case: The seven victims were killed by secret service trainees for practice. It was all part of a plot by rich businessmen and corrupt officials to rig the presidential elections in the year 2000 and take control of the country. Her boss, she discovers, was part of the conspiracy.

This is the plot of "Men's Games," the latest best-selling thriller by the rising star of Russian crime fiction, Aleksandra Marinina. It is, in the reading, faithful to the details of how police really work, and it plays off tensions in the society around it. As with any crime novel, those are big parts of its appeal.

But at its heart, this book is pure fiction: The detective actually solves the mystery, which doesn't happen very often in Russia anymore. For Russians, that is an even bigger part of the appeal. Frustration with a growing Russian crime problem is feeding a growing appetite for crime fiction, it seems: When real-life murderers get off scot-free, ordinary citizens seek satisfaction in a tidy, if fictional, resolution.

Actually, Aleksandra Marinina is also a fiction. It is a pseudonym for Marina Alekseyeva, a 40-year-old lieutenant colonel in the Russian police department who, on the side, has become Russia's most successful current crime writer. The author of 18 best sellers, she blends the gritty details of police procedure she picked up on the job with lurid plots and fiendish villains she dreamed up on the subway home from work.

She is not alone. There are now dozens of other Russian detective writers who have edged the once ubiquitous translations of John Grisham and Sidney Sheldon off bookstore shelves by meeting the new and vast Russian demand for home-grown crime fiction.

What is feeding that demand is, it seems, a vast supply of real crime in Russia, and the inability of the real police to bring it under control. There were twice as many homicides in Moscow in 1997 as in New York. Newspapers relay lurid accounts of murders, kidnappings and businessmen blown up in their Mercedeses. Television is awash in tabloid-style "reality based" police dramas. The fascination with crime has even seeped into game shows: In the popular "Interception," contestants pretend to be car thieves and try to outrun police patrol cars in a "stolen" vehicle provided by the producers. Winners keep the car.

In the midst of this crime wave, Russian prisons have become dangerously overcrowded with ordinary murderers, car thieves and low-level criminals. But the corrupt high officials, mafia chiefs and top businessmen who are suspected of orchestrating some of Russia's most sensational murders and financial frauds never seem to get caught.

This part of Russian reality, at least, is reflected well enough in Marinina's novels. "My heroine always solves the crime, and sometimes, my villains do go to prison," Ms. Alekseyeva explained in an interview. "But not always — that would be too unbelievable." In "Men's Games," for example, the novel ends without any clear indication of whether the bankers and officials who are the top villains will be brought to justice.



James Hill for The New York Times

Marina Alekseyeva, police officer, alias Aleksandra Marinina, author of best-selling crime novels.

Two cases in particular dominate the Russian people's impression of their police force's efficiency these days. One is the murder of Vyacheslav Listyev, a beloved Russian talk show host and network executive who was gunned down in his stairwell by a hired assassin three years ago. Every six months, the prosecutor general's office announces that suspects are about to be brought to justice — then backs down and says the investigation is still under way.

The News Gap

The other case is that of Dmitri Kholodov, an investigative reporter who was blown up in 1994 by a bomb planted in his briefcase while he was investigating corruption in the Russian military. Last month, two mid-ranking army officers were arrested, but no one in Russia believes that the case will ever reach the top brass. Newspapers have failed to produce any solid investigative leads of their own.

And that could be another reason why reality-based crime novels are suddenly so popular. "So-called independent newspapers are anything but," said Gleb Uspensky, a co-founder of Vagrius, a top Russian publishing house with its own vast roster of best-selling crime fiction authors, including Russia's king of pulp, Viktor Dychenko. And with a confusing array of party lines being followed, reflecting the business interests of the banks that own the papers, he said Russians "need someone to chew over the material for them — why Chernomyrdin glanced at Chubais that way and what it means. Newspapers don't, but Marinina, Dychenko, they explain those nuances in their novels."

"Men's Games," is not a political roman à clef, but there are plenty of unsavory stock characters — a wise mafia don, ruthless bankers, corrupt officials — who are plucked from contemporary Russian society.

Real life in Russia, however, has a way of outdoing even the most outlandish fiction. Boris Berezovsky, a media and oil tycoon with close ties to the Kremlin, was the model for a villain in a fictionalized tale of political corruption and intrigue by Eduard Topol. But even Mr. Topol's imagination fell short of the latest twist in Mr. Berezovsky's real-life fate. The tycoon, who survived an assassination attempt in 1994 and a dozen trips to Chechnya, was recently hospitalized in Switzerland after the ultimate New Russian accident: he fell off a snowmobile.

Ms. Alekseyeva's own success story also seems borrowed from a novel. At work, where junior officers salute her as she passes, she maintains a professional dignity. Out of uniform, she has a cheery, ladylike demeanor reminiscent of the fictional Jessica Fletcher of the TV show "Murder She Wrote." She was an instructor at the police academy in 1991 when a friend coaxed her into collaborating on a crime short story. In 1995, she published her first novel. Her heroine, based on herself, is a plain, blunt-speaking, bookish detective who takes a more cerebral approach to crime-solving than her brawny male colleagues.

Readers, 60 percent of whom are women, have bought more than 10 million copies of her books. Last week, she signed a contract with an Italian publishing house, Piemme, for all 18 novels to be published in Italian over the next four years.

Last month, Ms. Alekseyeva submitted her resignation from the police force, though she still reports for work: "I felt it wasn't fair. I was getting all these calls at the office, from readers, reporters, publishers and it was disrupting work at the office."

She confessed she doesn't really relish writing about the fine points of contemporary crime — money laundering, pyramid schemes, Swiss bank accounts — and prefers to explore the psychology and love interests of what she knows best: burned-out, corrupt police officers, mafia hoods and ruthless murderers.

A World Safe For Whatever

Continued from Page 9

neatly encapsulated in the American pursuit of the China trade, with its merchants and missionaries.

Today, Michael Mandelbaum of Johns Hopkins suggests, the driving conviction is no longer anti-Communism, but a faith in the transforming nature of capitalism itself. "Now we believe the way to deal with friendly tyrants is economic, that economic and trade relations will lead to democratization."

That is the Clinton Administration's rationale for its engagement with China, let alone with Mr. Kabila, and it supports the desire to first prop up Mr. Suharto, and then to reform him.

But as Representative Lee Hamilton, an Indiana Democrat, notes, the goal of expanding market-based democracies "gives only a broad guidance to policy makers who have to make the tough decisions."

The new, post-cold war answer to what was once called "the friendly tyrant dilemma," Mr. Mandelbaum suggests, is oil, which, like anti-Communism before it, has a higher priority than democratization or human rights. For oil and the stability of oil-producing regions, Americans have long muted moral criticism of the Gulf sheikdoms, and now are doing the same for Turkey, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, the Caspian region answers to America's Iran conundrum.

"The cold war may be over, but the laws of strategic geopolitics have not been repealed," says Peter Rodman of the Nixon Center, a moderate Republican policy institute.

That is especially true in East Asia, he says, where there are worries about China's ambitions, about arms spending and about the economic crisis, which has only added to political instability. "You can't have a China strategy without Indonesia as a counterweight, and a lot of the people who attack Suharto on human-rights grounds also get badly worried about China, which is the big enchilada, and don't connect the two."

Free to Act? Nah.

In a larger sense, though, America's victory in the cold war seems only to have brought new limits on its ability to act freely, argues Jessica Mathews, the President of the Carnegie Endowment. "Our increased vulnerability to events elsewhere, combined with our expanded responsibility as a global superpower, may add up to the same kind of restrictions on our freedom of action as before," she said.

In the case of Indonesia, for instance, the United States is acting less to prop up Mr. Suharto than to protect America's national interests — for example, the possibility that a collapse in Jakarta will convulse Japan, Southeast Asia, and American markets.

Similarly, Washington's refusal to press the indictment of Mr. Milosevic for the very atrocities and war crimes American officials say he orders and incites, first in Bosnia and now in Kosovo, is just the most striking example of empty rhetoric in the service of the primary goal — regional stability, which Mr. Milosevic delivered at Dayton.

Without the ideological battle, it is doubtful that Washington would prop up a Mr. Mobutu for 30 years, Ms. Mathews said — "at least I'm optimistic enough to think that."

But in general, America's responses "ought to be less knee-jerk now," she said. "There are new reasons to deal with these folks, but it's not so wired as it was in the cold war, when we felt we really didn't have a choice."

The Nation

800-Pound Guests At the Pentagon

By LESLIE WAYNE

WITH the cold war over and Pentagon spending on weapons slashed, the military-industrial complex isn't what it used to be. The nation's defense contractors, hurting for business, have gone through an eat-or-be-eaten merger wave so sweeping that only three major military contractors are left standing today.

One would think that this corporate downsizing would have crimped their power, shrunk their lobbying efforts and lessened their appetite for making hefty campaign contributions. One would think.

Instead, military contractors, who were never wimps in Washington, have actually

> Weapons contractors now have a stronger grass-roots network.

seen their power increase as their numbers decrease. As they consolidate on a corporate level, they are also consolidating their political clout. Their campaign contributions are as strong as ever and they continue to engage the best of the K Street lobbyists. Their grass-roots support has grown and they have gained the upper hand over a Pentagon that once could pit one contractor against another.

"When you have fewer companies making our weapons, they are more powerful and their voices are louder," said Charles Lewis, director of the Center for Public Integrity in Washington. "Their need for throwing around cash and walking the halls has increased exponentially."

As recently as the early 1990's, there were more than 50 military contractors, each elbowing the other for contracts. But as the Pentagon's weapons budget fell to $44 billion last year, from a peak of $98.5 billion a decade earlier, contractors were forced to merge to survive. Lockheed Martin Corporation acquired 26 different companies, bringing them under a single corporate umbrella that now lobbies as one in Congress.

A Global Shake

Today, Boeing Company, Lockheed Martin and Raytheon Company account for 70 percent of the nation's military business, and an increasing share of the world's as well. And Lockheed may — or may not — get even bigger. Last week, Federal regulators threatened to quash a proposed $8.3 billion takeover of Northrop Grumman on antitrust grounds, and both companies are trying to restructure the deal.

"The contractors no longer have to cut each other's throats to compete," said Eugene Carroll, a retired admiral and director of the Center for Defense Information, a Washington nonprofit group. "Now they are giants who are beefing up their case for more spending."

The Big Three do a lot more than make weapons. Lockheed, which churns out F-16 Fighting Falcons and the new F-22 attack fighter, also makes 3-D computer games for Sega and devises mail sorting systems for the United States Postal Service. Raytheon sells air traffic control equipment to the Federal Aviation Administration. Lockheed is bidding to administer state welfare programs under the new Federal reforms.

New ventures mean Lockheed, Boeing and Raytheon have more issues to lobby and more members of Congress to support with contributions. With many new plants acquired in more parts of the country, they have more employees, and their families, in more districts to write representatives. Boeing doesn't just have recourse to its employees in Seattle but also its McDonnell Douglas employees in Missouri. And, when military contractors merge, the result is often more executives with long-standing Capitol Hill ties.

"They operate in more districts and they can be more of a block," said Jennifer Shecter, a researcher at the Center for Responsive Politics, a Washington nonprofit group. "Votes are often based on where there are plants, and these companies have plants everywhere."

These companies may have a greater say than even the Pentagon in determining what weapons are bought and how much they cost. Gone are the days when the Pentagon could threaten to take its business away from one contractor and give it to another to maintain some price competition. As a model, many point to the intense industry lobbying on behalf of the B-2 bomber, a plane that the Air Force says it doesn't need in any numbers above current plans. The main contractor, Northrop Grumman, divvied up the subcontracts in such a way as to optimize its political clout. The subcontracts were let out in as many states as possible, with the states then lobbying on behalf of the B-2.

The Washington agenda is more complex, too. While Boeing may be working to sell commercial jets to China, it also cares about Government export loan programs, which would help its McDonnell Douglas subsidiary sell armaments abroad. Raytheon benefited from a tax loophole, called a Morris Trust, which enabled it to acquire Hughes Aircraft at a lower price because less taxes were owed. And, with more overseas arms sales permitted, the Big Three want a bigger say in foreign policy initiatives.

"Our political spending is more reflective of our diversity," said Charles Manor, a Lockheed vice president. "We've expanded the base of people we support. We're dealing with more Government agencies. It's not just Congress and the Pentagon, but the Departments of Transportation and Energy."

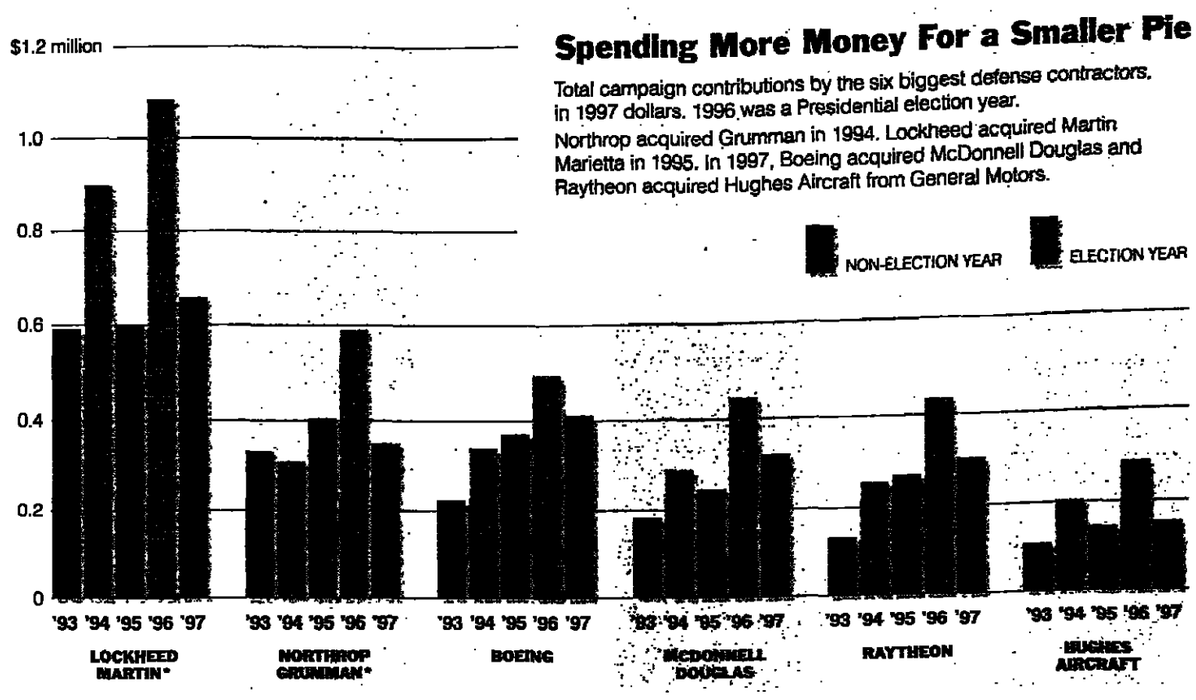
Major Donors

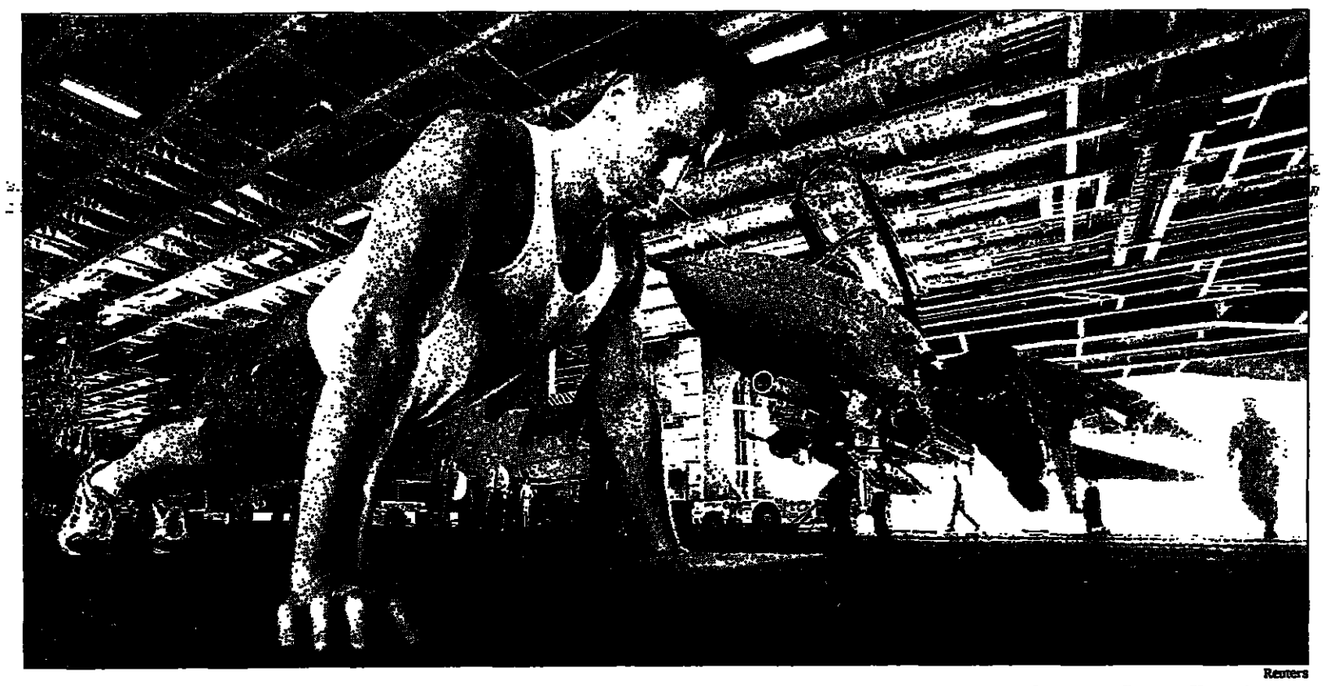
More issues mean more money. In 1997, Boeing made $424,000 in campaign contributions and McDonnell Douglas, which it just acquired, gave $331,000. By contrast, in 1995, the previous non-election year, Boeing made $382,000 in contributions and McDonnell gave $256,000 (in 1997 dollars).

"The Big Three contractors aren't trying to trump each other for business," Mr. Carroll said. "They are trying to increase the market for all, with each getting a share. They will drive Congress to find money for them."

Though smaller than before, the Pentagon budget still has plenty left. Congress is about to decide on the 1999 budget, with such big-ticket items as the B-2 bomber, continued F-16 funding, Apache and Comanche helicopters and the Patriot 3 missile. A bidding war is currently going on between a group headed by Lockheed and one by Boeing to make the joint strike fighter plane, a contract that could cost $200 billion.

The big loser has been the Pentagon. "It will be harder for the Pentagon to cancel a weapon system because these companies will bring their full weight to bear," said Lawrence Korb, a defense analyst at the Brookings Institution. "In the old days, the contractors would be careful about bypassing the Pentagon and going to Congress because the Pentagon could threaten to take business to their competitors. Now the Pentagon can't threaten to go anywhere else."




Reuters

A new military campaign hopes to get the troops in shape. A sailor works out in the hangar bay of the aircraft carrier George Washington.

Military Maneuvers

Operation Be Fit Goes for the Gut

By STEVEN LEE MYERS

WASHINGTON

OVER the decades the United States armed forces have taken on and conquered some mighty foes: the redcoats, the Nazis, Saddam Hussein. Now they have sighted a new enemy and it is fat.

At a time when critics question the military's readiness in this unpredictable post-cold war world, the Pentagon has launched a campaign to improve the physical fitness of the nation's 1.4 million soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. Goodbye Operation Desert Storm. Hello Operation Be Fit.

Of course, the men and women of the military are almost certainly the most fit in America. Still, it is possible to visit the nation's bases and spot a few more paunches, saddlebags and double chins. And as for the Pentagon itself, let's just say the bureaucracy isn't the only thing that could use some trimming.

"There are military members who are very, very physically fit," said Carolyn H. Becraft, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for personnel support, families and education. "And there are others who are not."

Bulging bellies have not exactly replaced Communism in the annals of the Pentagon fears. But the issue of out-of-shape or overweight troops is serious enough to spur some of its senior strategists into action.

The effort is largely a public awareness campaign by the Department of Defense, although it calls on the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps to improve and expand sports and recreational programs and fitness centers, some of which date from World War II and before.

Last month, the Department of Defense unveiled Operation Be Fit's logo, which has an inverted Nike-like swoosh. Perhaps it is a measure of the Pentagon's bloated bureaucracy that it has taken a year from the operation's announcement to get the plans off the ground and to select the logo.

In addition, each of the services is toughening standards for physical examinations, which the troops in the Army, Navy and Marine Corps must pass twice year, and once a year in the Air Force. Under the Army's new standards, which

> While there is no epidemic of obesity sweeping the ranks, there is a bit of slack.

take effect in October, soldiers have to complete specified numbers of push-ups and sit-ups within two minutes and run two miles in a certain amount of time, which varies by age and sex.

Minimizing Costs

To meet the Army's minimum standards, a 17- to 21-year-old male would have to complete 35 push-ups and 47 sit-ups and run the two miles in 16 minutes, 36 seconds (compared to 32, 35 and 16 minutes, 54 seconds, even under the old standards).

Ms. Becraft said the aim of Operation Be Fit is to raise consciousness not just with the troops but also with their families and the civilians who work on the bases — "the whole military community," as she calls it. She said better fitness would improve the health of all the members, with the added benefits of cutting health care costs.

None of this is to say that an epidemic of fatness has swept through the ranks. On the contrary, the services constantly extol the virtues of fitness; from the top down, it's almost religion.

Shaping Up

The military routinely discharges members who repeatedly exceed weight standards for their height and sex. And that number remains well below 1 percent of the 1.4 million now on active duty. The only problem is that the number has been growing. Last year 4,372 soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines were given their discharge papers for being overweight, a threefold percentage increase from a decade ago when 2,863 were discharged from a force of nearly 2.2 million troops.

Why? Some old-timers say the Pentagon, which, like society in general, has become more conscious of fitness, and that it is now less willing to turn a blind eye to troops putting on an extra few pounds. Another reason, clearly, is the growing professionalization of the services. Today more and more troops are working at their desks, rather than fighting in the trenches. There's also the food, which at mess halls is ample and high caloric, although diners can always get on the line for the salad bar.

Dr. Louis F. Tomasi, a research physiologist for the Army's Physical Fitness School at Fort Benning, Ga., offered still another reason: disgruntled troops can get out by deliberately failing the physical exams or putting on pounds. "A soldier who is put out for weight," he said, "is probably not a soldier who is motivated to succeed anyway."

East Wins and Loses A Race in the West

By TODD S. PURDUM

LOS ANGELES

LOIS CAPPS, a former school nurse from Santa Barbara, handily defeated State Assemblyman Tom Bordonaro last week in a hard-fought special election to serve out the Congressional term of her late husband, Walter, a Democrat who died last fall.

In politics, victory has always had a thousand eager fathers (and mothers). But in Mrs. Capps's district on the central coast of California, there were a lot of absentee parents.

When the candidates' guns fell silent on the morning after Election Day, special interest groups from all over the country could hardly wait to claim credit or cast blame. They had poured hundreds of thousands of dollars for television and radio commercials into the race and had made every effort to turn it into a referendum on hot-button national issues.

"Voters from California's central coast have chosen patriotism over provincial pork-barreling," said Eric O'Keefe, president of Americans for Limited Terms of Spring Green, Wis., which spent more than $300,000 attacking Mr. Bordonaro for his refusal to sign a pledge limiting himself to three two-year terms.

The National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League ran commercials attacking the Campaign for Working Families, a Washington anti-abortion group led by Gary Bauer, for its ads backing Mr. Bordonaro. The league's ads did not mention either candidate — to the annoyance of both — but the league was quick to claim vindication.

"Gary Bauer knows his agenda is not one moderate voters will support and so he hid behind the smoke screen of so-called partial birth abortion, hoping his candidate would win," said the group's president, Kate Michelman. "Clearly, voters saw through this."

The race for credit was so intense that at least one national group — the liberal People for the American Way, which ran no ads but worked to turn out voters in 10 predominantly Hispanic precincts — claimed the election was actually a triumph over "big money special interest groups."

In fact, a survey of voters leaving the polls that was financed by Mr. Bauer's group showed that the spending may have been wasted. Nearly 7 in 10 voters had made up their minds months ago, before many of the ads had run.


Associated Press

Lois Capps celebrates her election to Congress last week.

ECONOMY

How the Andersens Became Bickersons: A Family Feud

By MELODY PETERSEN

ON a recent Wednesday evening, white stretch limousines crowded the parking lot at Andersen Consulting's headquarters in Palo Alto, Calif. The drivers waited to take the firm's top partners and their counterparts at Arthur Andersen, the accounting firm, to dinner at Spago, an elegant restaurant downtown.

Even though the sister firms had been feuding for months, George T. Shaheen, managing partner at Andersen Consulting, had planned for the top partners on both sides of the Andersen Worldwide family to dine together.

But the limo drivers never saw their expected passengers. The first official meeting between the Andersens since December, when Mr. Shaheen told the world that Andersen Consulting wanted to go its own way, had quickly gone sour.

Like most family feuds, this one is about money. Lately, the consultants have begun to earn more than their peers on the accounting side, and they don't want to hand over any of that money to the accountants. Moreover, they are furious that the accountants have followed them into the lucrative business of giving advice.

In recent days, the bad blood has boiled over, creating an all-out brawl. Divorce, both insiders and outsiders say, is almost inevitable. Little more remains than a division of the spoils and deciding who keeps the Andersen name.

It's a perilous business being the largest professional partnership in the world. And the startling thing is that the feud involves experts whose trade is advising executives on how to run their businesses. "They should all be embarrassed," said Tom Rodenhauser, president of Consulting Information Services in Keene, N.H. "People are saying: 'Can't they figure this out? Isn't that what they are paid to do?' "

Even though it may be years before the feud is settled, the two sides already act as separate firms and fierce rivals, with top partners snarling at one another over clients like lions eyeing the same gazelle.

At Andersen's offices around the world, Andersen Consulting employees are making plans to separate themselves from the accountants — if they have not already done so.

In New York, at joint offices at 54th Street and the Avenue of the Americas, Mr. Shaheen and Jim Wadia, Arthur Andersen's top managing partner, had sat in adjoining offices whenever they were in the city on the same day — a situation that employees said grew more and more tense. When Andersen Consulting remodeled the 18th floor in January, Mr. Wadia's office was moved to the 12th.

In Chicago, while the two sides still share space at 33 West Monroe Street, the security card of an Arthur Andersen employee will not open doors leading to Andersen Consulting.

Even the two units' Web sites are not linked.

"They are beyond the point of no return," Gresham T. Brebach, a former senior consulting partner, said recently. "There is no way they can reconcile. They have lost the partnership spirit."

Inside Andersen Worldwide, the umbrella organization for the two businesses, partners have grown concerned that they may be losing clients and hurting their chances of hiring top graduates. Andersen Consulting, which hired 12,000 people last year, many of them M.B.A.'s, recently sent letters to top business schools, trying to reassure students that the firm's future was bright and giving them a phone number to call if they had concerns.



Neither George Shaheen, Andersen Consulting's managing partner, left, nor Jim Wadia, Arthur Andersen's top managing partner, won enough votes last summer to become chief exectuive of their parent firm.

THE feud comes at a precarious time for Andersen Worldwide. The firm is on the brink of losing its place as the world's largest accounting and consulting firm to Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand, which received Justice Department approval for their merger Thursday. (They still need European regulators to sign off.)

Analysts say they know of no clients that the Andersens may have lost as a result of their bickering. But one competitor, the Deloitte & Touche Consulting Group, recently began running newspaper ads saying that while Deloitte was "focused" on clients, Andersen Consulting was "distracted by in-fighting."

The two sides of Andersen do agree, however, that their brawl cannot be good for business. They agreed last month to no longer talk publicly about their troubles. Instead, they are arguing behind closed doors before an independent arbitrator at the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris, following Mr. Shaheen's request in December for binding arbitration to settle the Andersens' future.

But more details of this private war leaked out late last month at a court hearing in New York. Andersen Consulting had filed a lawsuit to try to blunt a resolution, passed by the accountants who comprise a majority of the 27-member board that manages Andersen Worldwide, asserting their control. The resolution was passed on Feb. 12, the day after the dinner plans at Spago were abandoned, with the Arthur Andersen partners deciding to dine separately.

At the hearing, Barry R. Ostrager, a lawyer for Andersen Consulting, told Judge John G. Koeltl of the Federal District Court in Manhattan that the resolution created a "protection committee," made up only of Arthur Andersen partners, that would essentially take over Andersen Worldwide.

"What we have here is hardball tactics of the most naked and unreasonable and unlawful manner," Mr. Ostrager said.

While Mr. Ostrager said that Arthur Andersen was trying to put its consulting brothers and sisters "out of business," James Quinn, a lawyer for Arthur Andersen, told the judge that the contention was "absurd." The two sides are tied together financially, Mr. Quinn said, and any attempt by Arthur Andersen to hurt Andersen Consulting would be "self-destructive."

Addressing the judge, Mr. Quinn referred to Dec. 17 as "a day that will live in infamy in the history of Arthur Andersen." For that was the day Andersen Consulting fired off press releases to newsrooms around the world contending that Arthur Andersen had breached its agreement with the consultants by going after the same clients — a contention that the accountants say is "false and misleading."

Partners on both sides refuse to talk publicly about the fracas. They do say, however, that business has never been better, with Arthur Andersen's revenues growing at a 17 percent clip and Andersen Consulting's revenues up 25 percent last year. "I have received no calls from clients who say they are nervous," Mr. Shaheen said. "We have not lost a stride in the marketplace."

Matthew P. Gonring, Arthur Andersen's managing partner for communications, added: "This filing has not changed Arthur Andersen. Our view is that the interests of clients, partners and employees come first. Our business is fundamentally sound."

IF he were alive, the firm's founder might be breaking pencils. In 1913, when Arthur E. Andersen, an accounting professor at Northwestern University, founded what was then called Andersen, Delany & Company in Chicago, his motto was that every accountant should work not for himself (they were all men then), but for "one firm."

Later, the firm would install the same style of wooden doors in every Andersen office around the world to give clients and employees the impression of walking into a unified organization.

Two months before he died, in January 1947, Mr. Andersen wrote, "We must have, as we have never had before, a united family." A half-century later, the firm is anything but.

A matter at the heart of the dispute is who created Andersen Consulting: Did it grow out of the accounting firm or did it spring forth fully formed, a decade ago? The accountants say the consulting business goes back at least to 1952, when the accountants helped install General Electric's first computer system.

Privately, the Arthur Andersen partners say that they have invested millions of dollars and more than three decades into building the consulting practice, adding that they are not about to let the consultants get away without collecting a hefty return.

The accountants say the partnership agreements — which are read by each side in a different way — require Andersen Consulting to pay 150 percent of its annual revenues, or nearly $10 billion, to the accountants if it wants to separate. In addition, the accountants say, the agreements require the consultants to drop the Andersen name and to return any technology they have developed.

But Andersen Consulting's partners prefer to tell their history by beginning with 1989, the year the firm was split into Arthur Andersen, which would offer traditional accounting services, and Andersen Consulting.

The Andersen Consulting partners say that they have since built their side into the world's largest consulting firm. They owe no money to the accountants, they say, because Arthur Andersen breached the partners' agreement by jumping into consulting, too. The consultants point to papers the firm filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission in 1990 that said that Andersen Consulting, and not Arthur Andersen, would do computer consulting, which makes up the bulk of the consulting work.

The consultants are most frustrated by a term in the agreement that requires the more profitable side to transfer money to the other. While the accountants once paid the consultants money, in recent years the consultants have started writing ever bigger checks to the accountants.

Last year, Andersen Consulting paid Arthur Andersen $173 million — an average contribution of more than $150,000 from each of Andersen Consulting's 1,100 partners. That was a windfall of about $100,000 to each of Arthur Andersen's 1,700 partners. Larry Levitan, a senior Andersen Consulting partner who retired six months ago, explained how he felt about the payments he had made: "I pick out a partner at Arthur Andersen that I know and I say, 'I'm buying you a new Mercedes Benz every single year.' This year I bought him a down payment on a very nice home."

The consultants contend that the accountants are using the money to build a rival consulting practice.

"Our partners say, 'Why are we sending our money to a competitor?' " Mr. Shaheen said on Dec. 17 after he had filed the request for arbitration, arguing that the two sides should separate because of "irreconcilable differences."

The accountants say the Andersens never agreed that the accountants had to remain accountants and could not consult. Indeed, the accountants have ventured so far from their traditional role of auditing corporate financial statements and preparing tax returns that Arthur Andersen now ranks as the world's No. 6 consulting firm. Andersen Consulting is No. 1.

ARTHUR ANDERSEN'S consulting ranges from installing software to training employees for overseas assignments to managing a company's spending on environmental concerns. The firm has even irritated lawyers recently by offering legal services overseas. So it rankles the accountants whenever someone calls Arthur Andersen an "accounting firm."

"Calling us an accounting firm is like calling Disney a cartoon maker or G.E. an appliance manufacturer," John S. Vita, a spokesman for Arthur Andersen, said recently. "While we were founded on accounting, as Disney was on cartoons and G.E. on appliances, we have outgrown that." Arthur Andersen should be called, he said, a "multidisciplinary professional services firm."

Some former partners and industry analysts say the hard feelings might have been soothed long ago if it had not been for the egos of the men leading the two sides. "The battle seems to be a battle of wills," said Mr. Rodenhauser, the New Hampshire analyst.

Indeed, the Andersens' longtime troubles burst into public view last summer when Mr. Shaheen, outspoken and hard-driving, and Mr. Wadia, a soft-spoken lawyer and accountant, each campaigned to become chief executive of Andersen Worldwide. (Andersen Worldwide, with about 1,600 employees, oversees the administrative affairs of Arthur Andersen and Andersen Consulting and officially ties the two together.)

The top post opened up after Lawrence A. Weinbach resigned to become chief executive of the Unisys Corporation. In eight years as chief executive, Mr. Weinbach tried, but failed, to bring the Andersens together. He declined to comment last week on the schism.

But neither Mr. Shaheen nor Mr. Wadia received the necessary two-thirds vote of all Andersen partners, and the board elected an interim chief, W. Robert Grafton, an Arthur Andersen partner who was then chairman of Andersen Worldwide's board.

The rift has grown wider ever since. Observers say Mr. Shaheen made a mistake when, six months after losing his bid for chief executive, he filed for arbitration. One former partner, who spoke on condition of anonymity, predicted that if the Paris arbitrator decided that the consultants must pay a hefty price to leave, "some partners could choose to stay, and some could leave, and Andersen Consulting could be no more."

MR. BREBACH, who was managing partner of the firm's North American consulting business until 1988 and worked with Mr. Shaheen, said the Andersen rift would probably be settled peacefully if it were not for Mr. Shaheen.

At first, Mr. Shaheen had seemed to be a "mild-mannered guy" from central Illinois, Mr. Brebach said. "He was not one you would say had an ego problem," he said. "But things change with power."

In an interview, Mr. Shaheen defended his actions, saying he had not acted recklessly by filing for arbitration. He said he had acted in the best interests of all Andersen Consulting partners, not out of his own ambitions. "How could this be reckless?" he asked. "What would be reckless would be to let it go on."

At the court hearing on Feb. 20 in New York, Andersen Consulting's lawyers placed the blame on Mr. Wadia, with Mr. Ostrager portraying him as a man who was "full of himself." Mr. Wadia, who was born in Bombay and now lives in London, is the firm's first managing partner who has never worked as an auditor — making his promotion consistent with Arthur Andersen's move away from auditing and into consulting.

Mr. Ostrager, a lawyer with Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, which is handling the matter for Andersen Consulting, recounted what happened in Palo Alto on Feb. 11 and 12, during a meeting of the board of partners.

Mr. Ostrager said he had confirmed the meetings' events by taking sworn depositions from Mr. Wadia and Mr. Grafton, who has found himself in the middle.

Near midnight on Feb. 11, after the dinner that wasn't, Mr. Wadia and one other Arthur Andersen partner met privately with Mr. Grafton, Mr. Ostrager said at the hearing. Mr. Wadia showed Mr. Grafton a draft of the resolution creating a "protection committee" and said he planned to present it to the board the next day.

But Mr. Grafton told Mr. Wadia that he believed the resolution was inconsistent with advice he had received from firm lawyers, Mr. Ostrager said. Mr. Grafton said board members couldn't vote on matters related to the arbitration proceeding in Paris because each member was a party to that divorce filing and, therefore, had a conflict of interest.

The next day, though, Mr. Wadia ignored Mr. Grafton's warning and put the resolution before the board. It passed, even though Mr. Grafton and all the Andersen Consulting partners voted against it. The resolution states that the arbitration request was a "scheme" by the consultants "to avoid all duties and obligations they owe to their fellow partners."

The next day, Feb. 13, Mr. Wadia sent a memo to Arthur Andersen's partners saying the board had "put on record their intention to pursue and investigate Andersen Consulting's behavior."

Mr. Wadia also sent the memo to the Andersen Consulting partners, with an attached letter that said the consultants were trying to "inflict pain" on Arthur Andersen in December when they publicized the feud. "Was it really worth it?" Mr. Wadia wrote. "That misconduct, more than anything else, has galvanized Arthur Andersen and has made it more resolute than ever before."

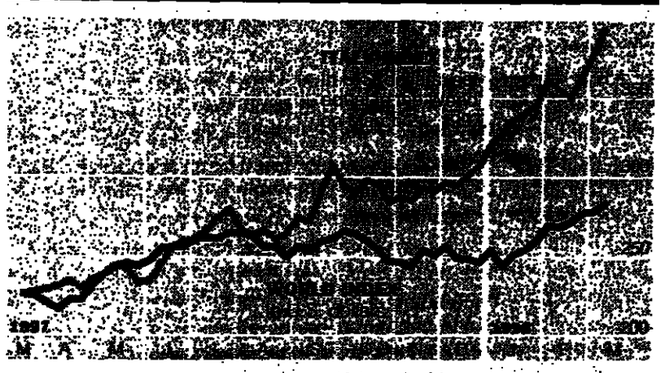
Mr. Wadia declined to comment on the events, citing the continuing litigation.

While it may be years before the Andersens settle their differences, it is clear that life at Andersen Worldwide — where most partners were hired as college graduates — will never be the same.

One former consulting partner remembers the anxiety he felt years ago, when there had been talk of the consultants' going their own way.

"I had spent a lot of time and effort becoming partner, and I was thinking that all that hard work and my future were over," he said. "There must be a lot of that same anxiety now." □

WORLD STOCK MARKETS



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT Indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

PERFORMANCE	IN U.S. DOLLARS					IN LOCAL CURR.	
Country	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	Dividend Yield	Index	YTD % Chg.
Australia	214.86	3.4	16	7.4	22	3.67	211.85	3.7
Austria	210.37	3.0	19	11.3	16	1.64	198.55	12.4
Belgium	298.60	5.2	9	17.3	9	2.53	276.00	18.7
Brazil	258.05	3.9	15	8.2	21	1.59	538.27	9.9
Britain	377.85	2.3	21	13.9	14	2.93	335.33	12.2
Canada	239.60	3.9	14	12.8	15	1.64	244.63	11.1
Denmark	484.92	6.1	6	8.4	20	1.29	456.69	9.6
Finland	367.30	6.2	5	31.9	2	2.12	425.04	33.5
France	275.76	2.2	22	15.2	11	2.10	263.24	16.6
Germany	262.05	4.5	11	14.2	13	1.27	247.50	15.4
Hong Kong	344.59	0.6	26	– 3.5	26	4.64	342.63	– 3.5
Indonesia	48.46	5.5	8	–26.7	28	2.34	288.34	29.5
Ireland	503.29	4.7	10	25.3	5	1.93	513.78	29.4
Italy	147.41	3.9	13	25.3	6	1.19	196.91	26.8
Japan	103.46	– 1.3	27	8.6	19	0.95	83.83	7.0
Malaysia	208.08	7.4	3	26.6	4	2.30	299.32	21.4
Mexico	1,585.42	– 1.4	28	–12.1	27	1.53	14,834.54	– 6.7
Netherlands	471.51	2.0	23	15.0	12	2.07	440.61	16.2
New Zealand	77.63	2.7	20	1.6	24	4.62	70.64	1.1
Norway	327.69	4.2	12	2.6	23	1.86	336.00	5.1
Philippines	94.78	1.2	25	19.5	7	1.10	187.05	18.6
Singapore	225.90	8.5	2	0.3	25	1.93	166.20	– 4.9
South Africa	290.80	6.8	4	9.6	18	2.76	315.83	11.9
Spain	350.49	3.1	18	29.0	3	1.76	410.09	30.7
Sweden	554.42	5.7	7	18.1	8	1.79	648.85	17.7
Switzerland	394.76	3.4	17	15.8	10	0.98	361.30	17.2
Thailand	33.84	11.1	1	75.4	1	5.88	53.00	47.0
United States	436.31	1.3	24	10.1	17	1.45	436.31	10.1
COMPOSITE INDICES								
Europe	335.32	3.1		16.0		2.08	318.20	16.1
Pacific Basin	113.74	– 0.4		7.4		1.59	93.19	5.8
Europe/Pacific	206.14	2.0		13.1		1.92	177.81	12.5
World	282.64	1.7		11.3		1.67	257.35	11.1

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close.
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CURRENCIES

Exchange rate	Friday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago.
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar	128.15	127.93	+0.17	123.53
German marks to the U.S. dollar	1.8185	1.8328	–0.78	1.6954
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar	1.4080	1.4178	–0.69	1.3652
U.S. dollars to the British pound	1.6698	1.6356	+2.09	1.6011

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets; exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

U.S. BOND MARKETS

March 9-13: The Dow Idles, on More Bad Earnings News. Next Week: Triple Witching.

Sources: Bank Rate Monitor; Bloomberg Financial Markets; The Bond Buyer; Datastream; Goldman, Sachs; IBC's Money Fund Report; Merrill Lynch, Standard & Poor's; Ryan Labs

PRICES

DOMESTIC EQUITIES

Broad market S.&P. 500 index	**Up 1.23%** 1,068.61
Blue chips Dow 30 industrials	**Up 0.39%** 8,602.52
Small capitalization Russell 2000 index	**Up 1.09%** 468.77

DOMESTIC BONDS

Treasuries Ryan Labs. Total Return	**Up 0.88%** 216.82
Municipals Bond Buyer index	**Up 0.72%** 123.13
Corporates Merrill Lynch Master index	**Up 0.92%** 951.48

AROUND THE WORLD

European stocks F.T.-Actuaries Europe	**Up 3.14%** 335.32
Asian stocks F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin	**Down 0.37%** 113.74
Gold New York cash price	**Up 0.24%** $295.90

Foreign indexes are given in dollar terms.

YIELDS

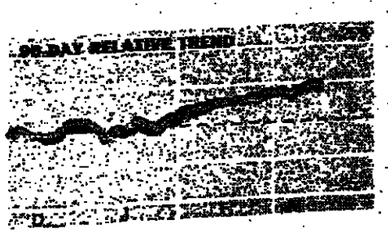
BONDS

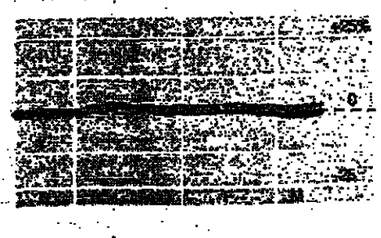
Long bonds 30-year Treasuries	**5.89%** Down 13 basis pts.
Notes 2-year Treasuries	**5.47%** Down 10 basis pts.
Municipals Bond Buyer index	**5.26%** Down 5 basis pts.

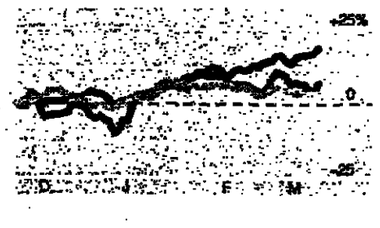
100 basis points = 1 percentage point

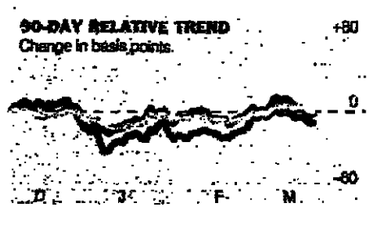
OTHER INVESTMENTS

Money market funds Taxable average	**5.01%** Down 6 basis pts.
Bank C.D.'s 1-year small savers	**4.98%** Unchanged
Stocks S.&P. 500 dividend yield	**1.49%** Down 1 b.p.











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Mr. Clinton's Dangerous Friends

The White House line was that President Clinton left early for Camp David on Friday afternoon to show that he was not distracted by the new filings in the Paula Jones suit. The timing of the departure from the South Lawn meant that Mr. Clinton missed his lawyer's rambling press conference. Robert Bennett, looking weary and rattled, said he was right to file the motion to dismiss that allowed Ms. Jones's lawyers to file a 700-page examination of the President's sexual conduct. "I think the President's reputation is pretty darn good in the eyes of the American people," Mr. Bennett said.

Uttered by anyone other than a professional advocate, the remark would seem delusional. It certainly fit a pattern whereby the case for public respect of Mr. Clinton weakens while his lawyers and spinners celebrate their own toughness and threaten the destruction of his enemies. The fact is that by the steady deployment of their destructive skills against the citizens they designate as enemies, the President's hired defenders are shredding their boss's claim on public admiration.

We continue to wonder why Mr. Clinton does not rise above the legalisms and jihad p.r. tactics of his staff and seize control of his destiny. Hillary Clinton is said to think poorly of Mr. Bennett's handling of the Jones case, and well she might. His televised threat to drag Ms. Jones through the mud seemed to stiffen her resolve. His determination to try what appears to be a clearly flawed Presidential case rather than settle it looks like macho lawyering run amok. Friday he revealed that Mr. Clinton had passed up a chance to settle the case for $25,000.

In retrospect, it would have been smarter to pay the money than to dispatch James Carville to trash Ms. Jones on "Meet the Press." But that is not the main point here. Mr. Clinton has been seduced by his aides' tactics when he should have opted for the strategic vision he invoked eight weeks ago by saying he would come forward with his full story. The polls, pumped up by the flush times, have helped decoy the President down the wrong path.

What they cannot measure is the harm being done to how he will be regarded in history and in living memory of his constituents. In New York, for example, it is possible to find devout Democrats who say they still support Mr. Clinton's policies and then whisper that they have lost all regard for his character. The same people who "approve" of Mr. Clinton's political performance today may render their long-term judgment based on the content of his character.

His advocates and supporters have a mantra: these are only allegations. But that is a temporary shelter. It permanently protects Mr. Clinton's place in history only if there are no seedy facts to emerge in the trial that Mr. Bennett says he will make into a pitched battle come this May. Common sense dictates that such a trial can help Mr. Clinton only if it is shown that a sizable number of women have been enlisted in an astonishingly complex campaign of coordinated lying.

The lawyers and certain White House aides keep beating the tocsin for a publicity war. They would serve their boss better by finding some way of sensible retreat. At Camp David this weekend, Mr. Clinton should reflect on the fact that Mr. Bennett will not write the history books. But he seems to have perfected a dandy way to produce a lot of negative material for those who will.

The Religious Tyranny Amendment

Once again, the separation of church and state essential to American liberty is under assault in Congress. In a radical move that attracted little public notice, the House Judiciary Committee has approved a constitutional amendment that would effectively strip the promise of religious neutrality by government from the Bill of Rights.

The amendment contains some ambiguous wording. But it clearly aims to create a new right to practice religion in public institutions and on government property. It would permit inherently coercive programs of group prayer in public schools and mandate the use of public funds to support private religious schools and other religious programs. It would also allow government officials, including teachers and judges, to display religious symbols in classrooms, courtrooms or other public spaces and communicate their personal religious beliefs while on the job, say by reciting a prayer at the beginning of a public school class or legal proceeding.

Fraudulently labeled the Religious Freedom Amendment, it would obliterate the First Amendment's vision of a tolerant nation where religion can flourish in the absence of excessive government entanglement. The amendment, which was drafted by Representative Ernest Jim Istook, Republican of Oklahoma, in collaboration with the Christian Coalition and others on the religious right, has inspired strong opposition from many religious leaders.

The Judiciary Committee chairman, Representative Henry Hyde, spoke passionately about the need for prayer in school as a way to unite the nation in the face of "racism which is tearing this country apart." Yet nothing currently bars students from praying voluntarily in school so long as they do not interfere with classes or commandeer a captive audience of other students. Moreover, it is hard to think of anything more divisive than putting the Federal and state governments in a position to favor one religion over another, as the amendment would do by granting officials the right to display religious material and channel tax dollars to religious programs.

Despite the lobbying power of the Christian Coalition, it seems unlikely that supporters of the measure will be able to muster the two-thirds vote needed for a constitutional amendment. Moreover, there is no great interest in the Senate. But that could change quickly if the House actually approves the amendment. A few House Republicans, including Nancy Johnson and Christopher Shays of Connecticut, have warned that the amendment poses great dangers to the nation and to Republican hopes to be seen as "an inclusive national party." More such voices are needed to administer the decisive thrashing this amendment deserves.

Good Vibes in Gotham

New Yorkers have historically taken a perverse pride from living in a city that scared the rest of the country to death. It let them mythologize their own lives and feel superior to folks from the soft and uneventful provinces. But now waves of tourists are crowding the streets, and a New York Times poll released last week showed that Americans from the heartland who once feared the city claim to love it and want to visit.

The difference has clearly resulted from changing opinions about crime, which has declined all over the country but especially fast in New York. Another important change is the face lift in Times Square, a once-seedy neighborhood that is a gateway to the city and thus has an enormous impact on how people view it.

As recently as two years ago, nearly one in four Americans mentioned crime when they heard the name New York. In last week's poll, the word most often mentioned was "big." More than 6 in 10 respondents say they have a generally "good image" of the city, compared with only 4 in 10 just two years ago.

Even people who have not visited in the last five years believe that New York is a cleaner, safer, more welcoming city. Good vibes and tourists are undermining the city's image as the place Americans love to hate.

Six Iraqis, Unfairly Judged

Imagine a trial in which the prosecution secretly presents evidence that the defendants and their lawyers have no right to see. The judge's ruling against the defendants is disclosed, but the details are kept classified. The government will only say that the men are considered a danger to national security and must leave the country. It sounds like the former Soviet Union, but the rough equivalent of this case just happened in the United States.

It involves six Iraqis who worked with the Central Intelligence Agency several years ago in failed efforts to unseat Saddam Hussein. When the covert operations in Iraq collapsed in 1996, the six men were among 6,500 Iraqis and others the United States moved to Guam to protect them from retaliation by Baghdad. Most of those people have since been resettled in America. But for these six, and a handful of others, the experience has turned into an Orwellian ordeal that is unfair and possibly unjust.

Even by the cramped due process standards of the immigration court system, which is managed by the Justice Department and not part of the independent Federal judiciary, this case seems grotesque. It may well be, as the Government implies, that these six Iraqis infiltrated the C.I.A. operations and served as double agents, actually working for Iraq. If there is convincing evidence of that, they should not be allowed to settle in the United States.

But they and their lawyers deserve a chance to review and to contest the evidence against them. It may be impeachable, and traceable to feuding within the Iraqi opposition. In criminal cases handled by Federal courts, there are procedures for dealing with classified information that let defendants examine sensitive evidence in an edited form that would not compromise intelligence gathering.

No such rules exist in immigration courts, and in this case the Federal Bureau of Investigation and an unidentified intelligence agency rejected a request from the Immigration and Naturalization Service to provide a declassified summary of the evidence. Foreigners seeking asylum do not have the same legal standing as American citizens, but that is no reason for an immigration court to operate like a Star Chamber. Since it is possible these men worked honorably alongside the C.I.A., Attorney General Janet Reno should insure that they are given a fair chance to defend themselves before they are deported to Iraq.

Go Slow on NATO Expansion Vote

To the Editor:

"What's the Rush on NATO?" (editorial, March 9) had it right. Enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is the most momentous initiative of United States foreign policy since the end of the cold war. Yet there have been no hearings, and debates in the Senate have been minimal. Thoughtful senators and citizens are uneasy at the rush to vote. The President has not argued his case to the people.

Proponents, led by the Administration, contend that the expansion of NATO will enhance security and stability in Central and Eastern Europe. They deny that it threatens Russia, which they point out has expressed a willingness to live with it. Opponents fear that it will divide Europe all over again and revive Russian distrust of the West, scuttle strategic arms agreements, and possibly usher in cold war II.

Our plea to both sides: So serious an issue deserves full hearings before a final vote. GUSTAV RANIS
JAMES TOBIN
New Haven, March 10, 1998
The writers are, respectively, professor and professor emeritus of economics at Yale University.

Push on Start 2

To the Editor:

The Clinton Administration has evidently made a United States-Russian summit meeting conditional on the Russian Parliament's ratification of the Start 2 nuclear arms treaty (news article, March 12). The idea, presumably, is to send a message to Russia about how important the Administration considers implementation of the arms treaty.

However, as the article also says, plans for NATO expansion have been a major obstacle to ratification of Start 2 by the Russian Parliament. If reduction of the threat of nuclear war and proliferation were Mr. Clinton's true priority, he would trade NATO expansion for Russian ratification of Start 2. Alternatively, Mr. Clinton could hold a forum at Ohio State University in which the relative merits of NATO expansion and reducing the risk of nuclear devastation could be fairly debated. MICHAEL PERLMAN
Williamsburg, Mass., March 12, 1998

Plenty of Hearings

To the Editor:

It is wrong to assert that the Senate is rushing toward a vote on enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization with inadequate preparation (editorial, March 9). Few issues of national security have been as extensively examined.

What you may find frustrating is that this examination has yielded unambiguous conclusions: the extension of NATO membership to Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary will make the alliance stronger. It will eliminate immoral and destabilizing dividing lines in Europe — divisions imposed by Stalin and perpetuated by the cold war.

Congress has led the charge for enlargement. Its committees have examined the military, intelligence, foreign policy and budgetary implications of this overdue initiative. Since last July alone, 12 hearings have been conducted on NATO enlargement by the Senate committees on Foreign Relations, Armed Services, Appropriations and Budget.

The Senate NATO Observer Group, of which I am co-chairman, has convened 17 times with the President, the Secretaries of State and Defense, NATO's Secretary General and the leaders of the three invited countries. WILLIAM V. ROTH JR.
U.S. Senator from Delaware
Washington, March 9, 1998



Tim Robinson

Supreme Court Was Right on Jones Lawsuit

To the Editor:

A March 11 news article reports that Vincent Bugliosi, the former prosecutor, thinks the Supreme Court should have balanced Paula Jones's right to a speedy resolution of her sexual harassment case against the right of Americans to have an undistracted President instead of allowing the case to proceed while the President is still in office.

Mr. Bugliosi's new "right" is overwhelmingly outweighed by the fundamental right of Americans to see the rule of law upheld and all citizens treated equally irrespective of status. A supreme executive granted immunity from the timely sanction of law is called a king, not a President. RICHARD STONE
Medford, Mass., March 12, 1998

Good Liberal Dog

To the Editor:

William Safire's March 12 column on Buddy, the Presidential pup, who is going to be neutered, missed the best case appeal for avoiding the knife. As any good liberal labrador would know, this is clearly a private decision between the poor pooch and his vet. CRAIG SCANLAN
Rumson, N.J., March 12, 1998

Zone of Privacy

To the Editor:

Maureen Dowd just doesn't understand the support shown for the President ("Sympathy for the Devil," column, March 11). Perhaps it is best understood in light of the old political axiom that people vote against, not for. And what exactly is it that is being voted against?

I believe that the vote is against unwarranted intrusions by the state into areas that Americans seem resolutely determined to defend as their zone of privacy. This would include sexual relations, licit or otherwise, between consenting adults.

Conservatives, rejoice. You have taught us well. We want the state to keep out of our personal lives even when that state is run by conservatives. GEORGE LAUGELLI
Frederick, Md., March 11, 1998

Asteroid Scenario

To the Editor:

It seems transparently obvious that the scenario of an asteroid striking the Earth in the year 2028 (front page, March 12) represents yet another effort by the Clinton Administration to obstruct Kenneth W. Starr's investigation, which no doubt will still be in progress at that time. TED CRATER
Colts Neck, N.J., March 13, 1998

Pity the Pundits

To the Editor:

Maureen Dowd's March 11 column comparing President Clinton to the Devil shows the utter frustration of Beltway pundits who, having failed for six years to find something, anything, to make Americans not like our President, have now been reduced to muttering that he is the Antichrist.

Maybe the reason voters haven't turned on the President is that we're actually smarter than the pundits think.

We're smart enough to realize that by almost any standard the country is in terrific shape. And since that is what we elected Mr. Clinton to do, we actually like the man. We don't care who he may or may not have slept with because we know that's not a serious issue, and we resent it when people spend six years trying to persuade us to feel something that we simply do not feel. VICTOR FRESCO
Santa Monica, Calif., March 12, 1998

Lexicon of Genocide

To the Editor:

Re Clyde Haberman's March 13 NYC column on the controversy over the use of words like "ghetto" and "holocaust" to refer to tragedies of history other than the Nazis' near-extermination of Europe's Jews:

As a Jew I am disturbed that the use of the term "concentration camp" for the camps in which Japanese-Americans were interned during World War II would spark any controversy within the Jewish community.

That such terminology should refer only to the Holocaust degrades its tragedy by forgetting what we should have learned: that genocide and mass racial and ethnic cleansing are things we must all band together against.

Instead of bickering over semantics, I would hope that we would be disgusted with all instances of mass murder and hatred and work to insure that they are neither forgotten nor repeated. REBECCA R. SILBER
Scarsdale, N.Y., March 13, 1998

The Times welcomes letters from readers. Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. Those selected may be shortened for space reasons. Fax letters to (212) 556-3622 or send by electronic mail to letters@nytimes.com, or by regular mail to Letters to the Editor, The New York Times, 229 West 43d Street, New York, N.Y. 10036-3959.

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Teachers Reject Bilingual Education

To the Editor:

"Bilingual *Education* Facing Toughest Test" (front page, March 10) cites the opinions of California politicians and advocates on bilingual education but makes no mention of teachers' opinions. This is a common omission, though strange, since teachers carry out the program on a daily basis.

In the Los Angeles Unified School District, our teachers' union conducted a referendum on Proposition 227, the initiative to end bilingual education. Despite strong union opposition and a $5,000 stipend paid to bilingual teachers, 48 percent voted to support the initiative. These teachers know that our bilingual programs have gone overboard in denying English instruction to our students and that the measure is a reasonable and timely remedy. DOUGLAS LASKEN
Woodland Hills, Calif., March 11, 1998

An Ugly Dynamic

To the Editor:

Your March 10 front-page article on bilingual education understates the xenophobic, nationalistic dynamic behind the initiative to end bilingual education.

The problem most of the measure's supporters have with bilingual education is not just the speed (or lack thereof) with which children become fluent in English, but their fear of living in a pluralistic, multicultural society. The proposition would rob many parents of the freedom to choose what kind of education their children get. If some of our children have, by fate, a great opportunity to be fluent in more than one language, why thwart their chances of making the best of such a valuable asset? JESÚS HERMOSILLO
San Francisco, March 11, 1998

What's Best for Deaf?

To the Editor:

The overlooked story about Junior High School 47, New York's only public school for the deaf (letters, March 10 and 11), is the large number of children from Spanish-speaking countries who speak only Spanish, or can speech-read Spanish. Placed in the school, where they are not allowed to speak Spanish, the students soon become incapable of communicating with their parents.

The school's appropriation of the term "bilingual education" to denote classes in English and American Sign Language instead of English and Spanish goes against common sense. The school's philosophy strips Spanish-speaking children of their ethnic identities. MARIA ZACHMANOGLOU
New York, March 11, 1998
The writer is a psychologist with the New York City Board of Education.

Each Student's Needs

To the Editor:

Re your March 10 and 11 letters on American Sign Language: How about the middle-of-the-road approach known as total communication? Total communication incorporates both English, American Sign Language, speech reading and residual hearing.

Must bureaucrats play God and standardize communication for all deaf children? Each student has different needs, different abilities and aspirations. LAURIE E. KRAUS
New York, March 11, 1998
The writer is president of a hearing enhancement resource company.

Free Candidate Ads

To the Editor:

You seem to think it is a good idea for broadcasters to be forced to give candidates free air time (editorial, March 11). Wouldn't it be equally valid to demand that The Times provide candidates with full-page ads to present their views in depth? Or do you only approve of others being coerced to give their products away? GARY LONG
Richardson, Tex., March 11, 1998

Adjuncts' Plight

To the Editor:

Re your March 12 letters on the plight of adjunct professors: When people find out how close my pay, benefits and working conditions are to those of migrant farm workers, they invariably respond, "You folks need a union."

I am represented by three powerful teachers' unions — the National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers and the American Association of University Professors. By law, the national unions must provide all members in the bargaining unit with "fair representation," but in fact the unions and their leadership have been — and remain — completely dominated by full-time faculty, who in most cases are our immediate supervisors.

The conflict of interest in having supervisors collectively bargain for their employees is so great that neither new leadership nor a new focus on part-time issues will solve these problems. No one can better represent the part-timers than the part-timers themselves, which is why so many part-timers have formed their own organizations. KEITH HOELLER
Seattle, March 12, 1998
The writer is part-time faculty at Washington State Community & Technical Colleges.

Liberties

MAUREEN DOWD

Sticky Cotton Candy

WASHINGTON

Ozone Man woke up in the middle of the night and wanted a world view.

Or rather, he wanted a view of the world.

An insomniac, visionary Al Gore has asked NASA to figure out how to broadcast a picture of the world spinning on its axis, a 24-hour Earth in the Balance.

The Vice President's version of "As the World Turns" could cost $30 million or so, which seems like a lot until you remember that this is about what Kenneth Starr has spent so far on ferreting out a small amount of terrestrial information — that Vincent Foster committed suicide and Bill Clinton has a roving eye.

In fact, it might be better to aim those satellite cameras at the Oval Office. We'd get more exciting pictures and we'd save money on wacky independent counsels who grow like Chia Pets.

Marlin Fitzwater, the press secretary for President Bush, wonders if Bill Clinton is afraid to make addresses from the Oval Office. He was curious whether Mr. Clinton made his case for bombing Iraq at the Pentagon because the Oval Office has been tainted by sex. He mused about whether all the tales of Monica Lewinsky "delivering papers" there have turned that powerful symbol of democracy into the sort of bachelor pad where Rock Hudson chased and chased Doris Day.

When Kathleen Willey appears on "60 Minutes" tonight, she will attach more racy images to the President's office. No wonder Mr. Clinton keeps fleeing to Camp David.

As Paula Jones's lawyers released 700 pages about Mr. Clinton's alleged misdeeds, Robert Bennett did his usual huffing and puffing.

"This is a form of insanity, what is going on here," he said, calling the charges of Paula Jones and five other women "a pack of lies."

Mr. Bennett likened the slew of allegations against the President to cotton candy, suggesting that when you bite into them, there's nothing there. They are like cotton candy, all right: sticky.

Oozing the Oval Office.

As more and more unsavory incidents pop up, the old slithering spin wears thin. It is hard to reconcile Mr. Clinton's 1992 denial of a relationship with Gennifer Flowers on "60 Minutes" with his sworn affidavit in the Jones case saying he was involved with her.

Now there is to be another ticking segment of "60 Minutes" about Mr. Clinton and sex. This time, the woman isn't a blond lounge singer, but an elegant former White House employee. And Hillary won't be there doing her Tammy Wynette number.

Ms. Willey's story is that when she went to see the President in the fall of 1993 to ask for a paid job at the White House to relieve her financial difficulties, he pounced on her. "It was very unexpected," she said in her deposition, adding "I just resisted."

Nobody feels sorry for Ms. Flowers because she seemed to enjoy her friendship with Mr. Clinton. Nobody feels sorry for Ms. Jones because she should have known the Arkansas Governor wasn't asking her up to his room because he noticed her job skills. Nobody feels sorry for Ms. Lewinsky because she is every wife's nightmare — the fresh young thing at the Xerox machine.

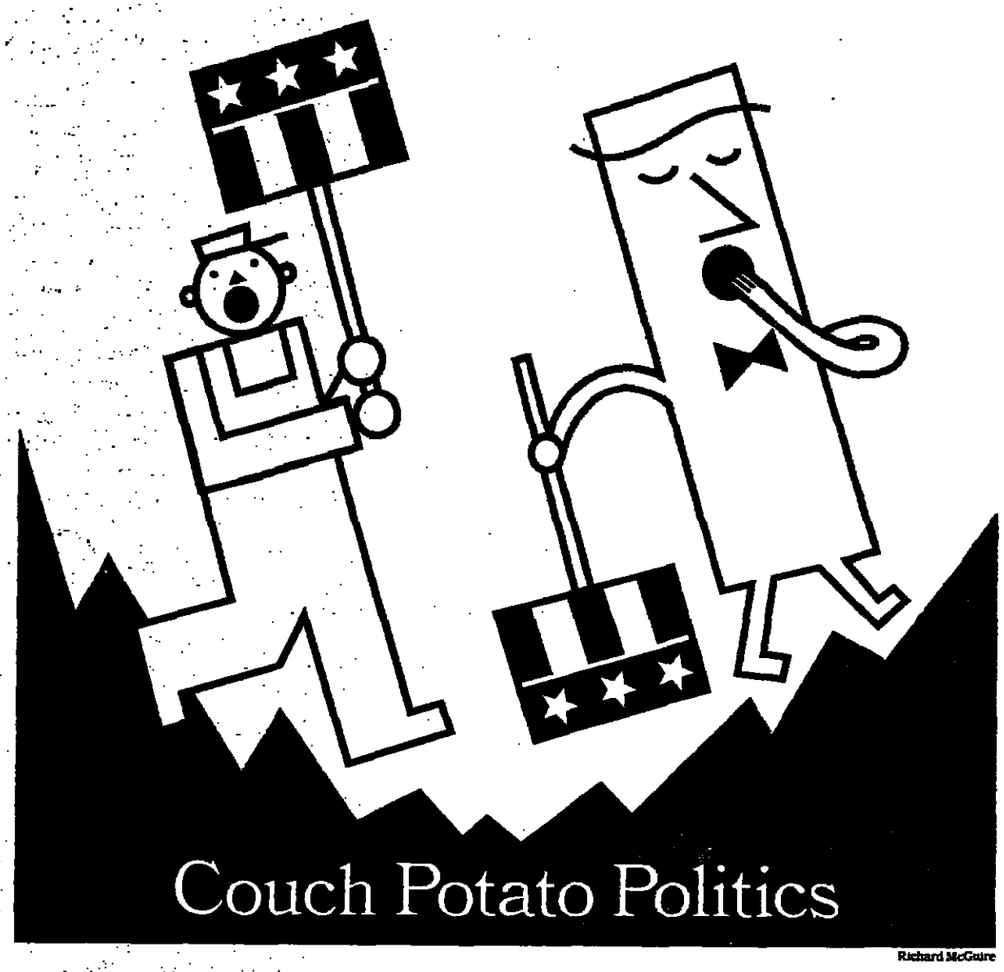
But the 51-year-old Ms. Willey will be a far more sympathetic figure, a political loyalist to the President who was reluctant to talk and has no political vendetta. Even though Mr. Clinton was nice about getting her a job — contrary to Ms. Jones's assertions, Mr. Clinton always seems to be nice to his dalliances, unless they threaten to go public, in which case they have to be smeared — it would have been pretty crass to jump on a friend and White House volunteer at such a vulnerable moment.

But like everyone else in this unappetizing cast of characters, Ms. Willey's story isn't rock solid. A friend who was once her corroborator has now recanted.

Mr. Clinton is doing what has worked for him so well. He insists that Ms. Willey made it up and that she must have misunderstood his attempts at comforting her. So many erotomaniacs, so little time.

"I did to her what I have done to scores and scores of men and women who have worked for me or been my friends over the years," he said in his deposition. "I embraced her, I put my arms around her, I may have even kissed her on the forehead. There was nothing sexual about it. I was trying to help her calm down and trying to reassure her."

Scores and scores, huh? □



Couch Potato Politics

Richard McGuire

By Alan Wolfe

BOSTON

The American political system seems to work best when the American economy is performing at its worst. Compare the Great Depression with the go-go years after World War II. Throughout the economic crises of the 1930's, political passions ran high, innovative policies were fashioned, people listened to their radios and campaigns were intense. And ultimately, Franklin Roosevelt came to be considered one of our greatest Presidents.

The 1950's, by contrast, were a time of great prosperity but also of bland politics. The Eisenhower years saw the beginning of suburban expansion and the solidification of a "Good for General Motors" economy. But most people preferred the pleasures of private success to the rewards and frustrations of public involvement.

Every generalization has its exception, including this one: the 1960's, particularly under Lyndon Johnson, constituted a period of economic expansion that coincided with a vibrant politics. Support for civil rights and opposition to the Vietnam War brought politics into the streets and into living rooms.

In the 1990's, we have entered a period like the Eisenhower era. Our economy is the envy of the world, achieving the impossible dream of expansion without inflation. Yet our political system seems deader than dead. Usually, the symptom of this is that politicians engage in passionate quarrels over meaningless symbols but don't pass much innovative legislation. This is true today, with the difference that we do not even seem able to rouse ourselves for petty demagoguery. This, too, is apparently too demanding for our present tastes.

Apathy has its virtues. We have been spared the passionate politics associated with sectarian strife. A not very exciting two-party system that attracts relatively few voters can seem lustrous when set against the squabbling gridlock produced by multiparty systems divided over real threats to security, as is the case in many nations. We should never forget that, for all its flaws, the American system works.

I was taught a valuable lesson in the benefits of a passionless politics when I did some research into the opinions of middle-class Americans. Most of those I talked with in the suburbs of Boston, Atlanta, Tulsa and San Diego focused their moral attention on the small worlds of neighbors, friends and family. Some had lost their jobs to foreign competition. Yet they remained optimistic. They also believed in virtue and morality but were reluctant to impose their values on others, which surely promotes tolerance in the country at large. They had been influenced by the values of the 1960's, including respect for diversity. After talking with these Americans, I was heartened by their generosity of spirit and sense of justice.

Why, then, did I also feel somewhat depressed? It may have had to do with my impression that those I interviewed lacked a shared sense of national purpose. When he campaigned for re-election in 1996, President Clinton stressed small things, like school uniforms and more police officers. In his choice of themes, Mr. Clinton demonstrated how attuned he was to an electorate that has many of the right instincts but lacks a vision of how to put them to constructive use. We have a Presidency writ small for a society that believes in morality writ small.

It is not as if there are no challenges facing the President and the people. For one thing, a country as wealthy and powerful as the United States cannot avoid its international obligations. Yet there seems little inclination to accept them. Consider, for example, the people in Columbus, Ohio, who confronted Administration officials on our Iraq policy. One can admire their populist pugnacity. Their questions about our reasons for committing troops were well taken.

Now that we can afford bold ideas, there aren't any.

Yet the concerns they voiced were parochial, even at a forum intended to address a question of international importance. Like most of my respondents, they expressed love for their country, but not in a way that disposed them to assume the burdens of life-and-death responsibilities.

Similarly, our domestic politics avoids the most serious issues. The middle-class Americans I interviewed were remarkably realistic on two big subjects, God and family. However sincere they might be in their own faith, they understood that religious orthodoxy can be incompatible with a pluralistic society. They were equally realistic about the changing dynamics of the family.

Although most favored the traditional family, in which only the father works and children are expected to obey their parents, they had learned to live with the benefits of wives who seek self-fulfillment through jobs and of children adventurous enough to set out on their own.

But on a third subject, their country and its government, the people I talked to exhibited nostalgia for bygone triumphs while they seemed reluctant to meet the demands of a new world. Once upon a time, a reluctance to rely on government to solve problems would have been understood as a conservative inclination. Since conservatives thought that the world was just fine, liberals enjoyed a monopoly on the word "problem." To rally support for change, liberals would issue reports documenting how one problem after another — racism, the environment, the conditions of urban life — had reached a crisis. Now, conservatives increasingly use the same tactics and even the rhetoric pioneered by liberals.

If we sit back and do nothing, the conservatives maintain, the family will continue to fall apart, crime will once again be out of control, schools will dumb down what they teach, and our moral fiber will atrophy. Our problems have become so plentiful that we can pick and choose our political approach to them. Select economic or racial inequality, and you are a liberal. Opt for international comparisons on math tests or lament the triumph of secular humanism, and you are a conservative.

Despite this sense from both left and right that there are more than enough problems to go around, Americans seem disinclined to address either side's laundry list. We face something deeper than a distrust of both liberalism and conservatism.

One of the most common words in the middle-class vocabulary is "responsibility." This is what Americans value when, for example, they question welfare or praise economic entrepreneurialism. It therefore struck me as peculiar that so many of the Americans I spoke with refused to accept the responsibilities of national citizenship. They seemed to want the benefits of being American without the obligations of paying taxes or paying attention. Blaming politicians for everything that is wrong is a way of absolving themselves.

This is what makes the present mood so eerie. For the first time in the living memory of many Americans, the Federal Government will soon collect more money than it will spend. At long last both liberals and conservatives have a chance not only to define what kind of country they would like us to be, but also to bring it into being by proposing bold ideas. Yet one party responds by pledging every cent of the surplus to Social Security, a program begun in the 1930's, while the other offers to eliminate the income tax. We constantly hear that Americans are fed up and not willing to take it anymore. Actually they, like their leaders, are quite happy with a trade-off that demands so little of everyone involved.

Prosperity, which gives us the opportunity to pay for a sense of national purpose, detracts from our ability to articulate a sense of national purpose. Economic success has made us a good society, a magnet for people from all over the world who want a chance to succeed. But we will not be a great society until our political will matches our economic abilities. It should not take another Depression to remind us that, in a democracy, good politics has to precede good policy. □

Alan Wolfe, a sociology professor at Boston University, is the author, most recently, of "One Nation, After All."

In America

BOB HERBERT

A Cop's View

The police officer called late in the afternoon. He spoke hesitantly, afraid that his identity would be revealed. I assured him that it would not.

"I came on this job expecting to do the right thing," he said. "I like people. I was gung-ho. I wanted to help people."

But he said his efforts and those of many thousands of dedicated men and women in the Police Department are being undermined by officers who are arrogant, racist, sadistic and in some cases sickeningly inhumane.

"A lot of these guys are immature and they don't have common sense," he said. "They've been living with mommy and daddy their whole lives. You give them a gun and a shield and they just get power crazy. Do you understand? All of a sudden they're Jesus Christ. They can take people's *lives*."

Instead of cracking down on these volatile, dangerous young cops, the department frequently goes out of its way to reward them.

"You'll find a lot of them in narcotics," he said. "They're like rising stars. That behavior is absolutely a good way to move up to detective. But in reality they're just bogus tough guys with no sense of responsibility. There's a difference between being gung-ho and being a punk and a bully."

The officer said he has been on the force for several years but has become so disillusioned by the department's tolerance for abusive behavior that he "will not stay a day past 20." He said it was difficult to estimate the percentage of officers who engage in brutality and other forms of abusive behavior, "but if I had to take a guess, I would say about 10 percent."

Some cops, he said, just flat out like to be brutal. "I used to work with a guy who loved to beat the [expletive] out of people. He's a sergeant now and he's teaching young cops the same crap he used to do."

The officer said he was prompted to call by the columns I wrote about the two disastrous drug raids that occurred in the Bronx on Feb. 27. In one of the raids an innocent man was dragged handcuffed and naked from his apartment and put through several hours of grotesque humiliation before being released. It turned out the police had raided the wrong apartment.

In the second raid, a woman who was eight months pregnant and her 15-year-old sister were handcuffed and terrorized by a dozen cops who turned the apartment upside down in a futile search for marijuana. The pregnant woman, dressed only in panties and a top, became so frightened she urinated. Her plea to be allowed to put on dry clothes was denied and she was forced to sit handcuffed in her soiled underwear on her soaked bed for more than two hours.

That ordeal ended when a cop at the scene announced that the wrong apartment had been hit. Later an official police spokesman would insist that the raid was not a mistake, although no drugs were found and no arrests were made.

The officer who called me said he had been on a number of similar raids.

Seeing brutality from the inside.

"They call it 'booming.' That's crashing the door down," he said. "What happens is that the narcotics guys get these C.I.'s [confidential informants] who are trying to cut themselves sweet deals to get them out of worse charges. They have to come up with something, so they give this [expletive] information. They'll say this guy is selling pot or whatever. But a lot of it's not true.

"The narcotics guys go and get a warrant from a judge. And then they boom the door and totally trash the apartment, but a lot of times they'll come up with nothing. One that I went on, there was this older black woman in the apartment. They threw her down and cuffed her and dragged her outside. It was freezing out and this woman was crying. I felt so bad for her. I said, What the [expletive] are they doing?"

No drugs were found, he said. But the woman's apartment was wrecked.

I asked why cops who object to abusive behavior don't intervene and try to stop it.

"You don't want to be branded a rat," he said. "If you were to challenge somebody for something that was going on, they would say: 'Listen, if the supervisor isn't saying anything, what the hell are you interjecting for? What are you, a rat? An I.A.D. [Internal Affairs Division] plant?'

"You gotta work with a lot of these guys," he said. "You go on a gun job, the next thing you know you got nobody following you up the stairs." □



the book department

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by Joan Nathan

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THE ARTS

The Way We Are in the Truth-Is-Stranger Era of Clinton

By TODD S. PURDUM

LOS ANGELES

FROM the opening shot of "Primary Colors," in which the camera pans slowly from a beefy politician's hand to what turns out to be John Travolta's full face — half smiling, half pouting in an unmistakable mix under silver-gray hair — there is no doubt about just whose handshake, and face, and flaws this movie is meant to evoke.

There is even less doubt halfway through the film when a young aide to Gov. Jack Stanton, the prodigal Southern Presidential candidate whom Mr. Travolta plays, confronts the Governor alone in a men's room and tells him that a black teen-ager in his home state claims she's about to have his baby. Stanton slams the wall in a wave of self-pity and wails, "I just can't catch a break, can I?"

The voyeuristic thrill of that moment, in which the perfect pitch of an imagined incident utterly trumps the truth of last month's nightly news, will be part of the guilty pleasure of this "Primary Colors" for thousands of Americans after it opens on Friday, just as it was when Joe Klein's novel began life two years ago as an anonymously published parlor game. After all, Bill Clinton is a President capable of comparing his suffering at the hands of an unjust media to that of Richard Jewell, the security guard who was wrongly identified as a suspect in the Atlanta Olympics bombing.

But whatever the film critics end up saying about the artistic merits of the movie, which is directed by Mike Nichols from a screenplay by Elaine May, the story it tells is, on the big screen, inevitably larger and more powerful than it was in the book.

In the first weeks of the post-Monica Lewinsky era of American politics, "Primary Colors" the movie suddenly seems no longer just an attempt at a sophisticated political comedy-drama but a celluloid Rosetta stone to help decipher prevailing notions of private behavior and public morality — a way to laugh at ourselves and our folly, and to cry.

"It's where we are," said Mr. Nichols, the director of path-breaking social commentaries like "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" (1966), "The Graduate" (1967) and "Carnal Knowledge" (1971). "It's about us more than them. It's not about Clinton, but about the 'Clinton thing.' It's about our process, and where we've brought it and it's brought us. It's about the gantlet that candidates have to run. It's about scandal, and the power of scandal in this media-run world. It's about sexuality, and its uncontrollability, and what happens when you try to control it. It's about the mystery of marriage and how no one ever knows what's going on inside a marriage."

That is a mouthful, but so, perforce, is the movie, which is going to feel as much like the 1992 Presidential campaign to those who lived through it as D. A. Pennebaker and Chris Hegedus's 1993 documentary "The War Room" did. But even as this tale takes on new overtones of reality with its mind's-eye cameo by "that woman, Ms. Lewinsky," the combined effect of Ms. May and Mr. Nichols's craft and a cast that also includes the likes of Emma Thompson, Kathy Bates, Billy Bob Thornton and Larry Hagman is that the story can at last be appreciated on something approaching its own terms.

"Primary Colors" is still a timely tweaking of people we know, but so were other dramas of leadership from the Greeks to Shakespeare, and like them it is ultimately "kind of human and awful and sad," as one character in the film says.

FROM the beginning, the saga of Jack Stanton, his flinty wife, Susan, their idealistic campaign aide Henry Burton, their mad-dog consultant Richard Jemmons and their internal "dust buster," Libby Holden, closely and deliberately echoed Mr. Clinton, his wife, Hillary, and their aides George Stephanopoulos, James Carville and Betsey Wright, Mr. Clinton's longtime chief of staff in Arkansas who spent much of the 1992 campaign fending off what she called, in a fit of impolitic revulsion, "bimbo eruptions."

So close were the echoes, in fact, that when the novel was published in January 1996, Washington was consumed with the conviction that a long-suffering insider like Mr. Stephanopoulos must have written it in secret revenge. Friendships were strained; Clinton loyalists were appalled that one of their own might have betrayed them and disgusted that obviously fictional events were being scrutinized as crypto-facts. Six months later, after repeatedly denying parentage — to, among others, this reporter, unbidden and vociferously on a snowy New Hampshire night — Mr. Klein, then a Newsweek reporter and CBS commentator, was exposed as the author, unleashing a fierce debate on the journalistic ethics surrounding his lies.

Now Mr. Stephanopoulos is a paid analyst for ABC News, among the first pundits to utter the word "impeachment" in l'Affaire Lewinsky. Mr. Klein is writing The New Yorker's Letter from Washington, meditating on the meaning of the Clintons' marriage and attesting to the "serious snuggle" he once saw them locked in. And actual events have all but outdistanced the most outlandish conceits of "Primary Colors." So much so that executives at Universal Pictures, which spent nearly $70 million to make the movie and another $30-odd million to promote it, have fretted that it may sink under the weight of yesterday's news — a notion that Mr. Nichols dismisses with sly mockery.

"I don't understand what the problem is," he said in a recent interview. "This movie would have done well, people will say, but it was just too relevant? And people talked about it too much, and that just did it a lot of harm?"

Still, Mr. Nichols acknowledges, it would be foolish to be cocky about the public's reception to any such project. And television news ratings, which spiked upward in the first days of the allegations about a relationship between the President and Ms. Lewinsky, have receded again. But this movie may wind up being the perfect palate cleanser for a public weary of Kenneth Starr's stalemated morality play, a pin to prick the pundits' conflated prognostications.

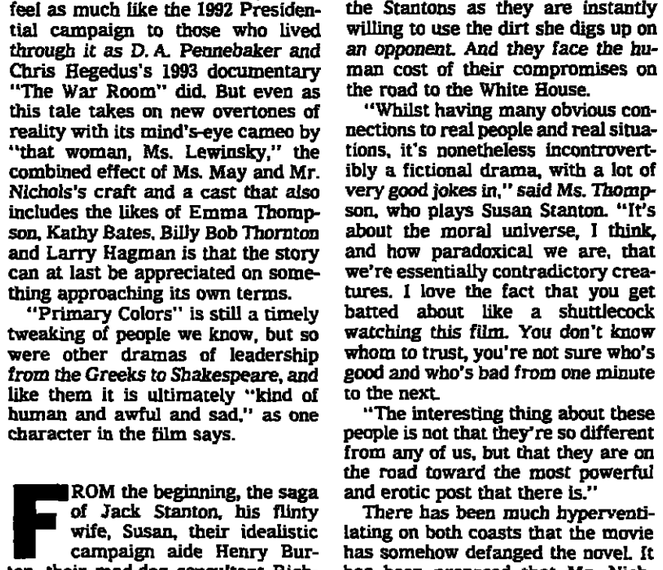
IN fact, as dramaturgy, Ms. May's screenplay puts the accent on the roman and not the clef, emphasizing the human story at the center of the Stantons' rise, and paring away some of the subplots and winking expository byways of the book.

The real-life associations are taken for granted, and the plot crests when Ms. Bates, as the agonized (and literally insane) Libby Holden, confronts the limits of her loyalty to the Stantons as they are instantly willing to use the dirt she digs up on an opponent. And they face the human cost of their compromises on the road to the White House.

"Whilst having many obvious connections to real people and real situations, it's nonetheless incontrovertibly a fictional drama, with a lot of very good jokes in," said Ms. Thompson, who plays Susan Stanton. "It's about the moral universe, I think, and how paradoxical we are, that we're essentially contradictory creatures. I love the fact that you get batted about like a shuttlecock watching this film. You don't know whom to trust, you're not sure who's good and who's bad from one minute to the next.

"The interesting thing about these people is not that they're so different from any of us, but that they are on the road toward the most powerful and erotic post that there is."

There has been much hyperventilating on both coasts that the movie has somehow defanged the novel. It has been proposed that Mr. Nichols's casual acquaintance with the Clintons from summers on Martha's Vineyard and a 1992 fund-raiser made him pull his punches. It has also been suggested that Mr. Travolta's meeting with the President's national security adviser, Samuel R. Berger, about discrimination against Scientologists in Germany was a payoff from the President to the actor, who is Scientology's most prominent international celebrity, for sanding down his performance. The film's publicity representatives declined to make Mr. Travolta available to be interviewed for this article, but he told George magazine, "You'd have to be dead not to see that the film favors Clinton."



Agence France-Presse

Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton in 1992, when he was a Governor running for President, à la "Primary Colors."



Francois Duhamel/Universal Studios

John Travolta as Gov. Jack Stanton and Emma Thompson as his wife, Susan, in "Primary Colors."

Such speculation ignores several realities, chief among them the central plot device, which remains the allegation — unproved, but all too believable to even the Governor's closest aides — that Stanton has impregnated a minor and then tried to cover it up. Not exactly flattering stuff, and ample grist for Clinton haters everywhere. Then there is the truth that Mr. Klein, who was one of Mr. Clinton's earliest boosters in the national press, has never completely abandoned his faith, despite some brutal criticisms, and never conceived of his novel as the hatchet job some saw.

"Nobody is unimpeachably right in 'Primary Colors,'" said Mr. Klein, whose exploration of the moral corrosion of politics borrowed from Robert Penn Warren's 1946 novel "All the King's Men" and whose big set speeches remain basically intact in the film. "There are no villains in it. To a very great extent what the book became for me was a way to exorcise my frustrations with the journalistic form of having to find heroes and villains. You've got to make the choice about whether you want the guy who absolutely, legitimately cares for the people and feels he can get away with murder, or do you want someone mediocre."

For Mr. Clinton's supporters, chroniclers and critics, that has long been the question, and the film does not shirk it. It shows a triumvirate of Stanton aides collapsing in despair on a hotel-room bed at the factual elisions of their boss, just as Mr. Stephanopoulos, Mr. Carville and Mandy Grunwald, a media consultant, did in the depths of the New York primary after it was reported that Mr. Clinton had received a Vietnam-era draft induction notice of which he claimed no memory. But those same aides used to call Mr. Clinton Secretariat, in awed tribute to his perseverance as a once-a-generation political thoroughbred, infused with innate and extraordinary empathy.

Suggesting his model with raspy voice and body language, rather than imitating him slavishly, Mr. Travolta captures that quality, as Stanton, alone late at night, connects with a disabled doughnut-shop worker in a tableau that blends the feel of P. F. Bentley's black-and-white photographs of the 1992 campaign with Edward Hopper's timeless diner. Mr. Travolta, himself a comeback kid grown a bit thick in the waist, also readily evokes the endocrinal and gastrointestinal excesses of Stanton/Clinton, and an aureole of sugar clings hilariously to his mouth as he scarfs doughnuts.

Veteran political hands may find it harder to discern the quicksilver intellectual agility that is Clinton/Stanton's other secret weapon, and that allows him to stay (mostly) focused when the world is crashing around his ears. This is, after all, a movie narrative, not the sort of news-conference-as-Socratic-dialogue for which Mr. Clinton has become famous.

In one sense, Mr. Nichols does stack the deck for Stanton. The novel ends in a cliffhanger, as Stanton pleads with the Stephanopoulesque Henry Burton (Adrian Lester), who has quit the campaign in disgust, to come back. In the film, in a coda shot, Mr. Nichols shows us what he thinks happened.

The director said that he had the revised ending in mind from the outset, then dropped it to save money only to feel the need for it later. "On a page, to look at a dead stop is very powerful," he said. "But there's a reason we've never seen it on the screen: a movie is an action; a novel is not an action, and an action has an ending — it's an arc, it has to come back to rest."

In a subtler way too, the ending tips the balance. It gives Stanton the advantage in what Mr. Nichols calls "the dialectic" between Libby Holden and the Stantons, in which they argue over whether to use dirt to destroy a Democratic rival, or wait for the Republicans or the news media to do so in the general election, when it will be too late to salvage any of the ideals they believe in anyway.

By this point, a film that has begun as a closely detailed comedy of manners, then has shifted to a kind of ensemble buddy picture that Mr. Nichols describes as "Seinfeld on the road," has turned truly tragic — far more Vince Foster than Gennifer Flowers. Libby cannot make sense of life after her final confrontation with the Stantons, her friends since they and the world were young, in the kitchen of the Governor's mansion.

"There was a moment in that kitchen scene where she looks at John and his faces changes and she says, 'We can't do this because it's not who we are,'" said Ms. Bates, whose performance as Libby is already being written about as the emotional anchor of the film. "And he says, 'Well, we've all got to grow up and move on.' It's that moment between two lovers, when they say, I'm sorry, I can't go the same way you're going."

Moments later, in the quiet of her pickup truck, Libby points to a pale moon in the night sky and shares with Henry the darkest private fear of any loyal political aide in symbiosis with a candidate who is, by nature, flawed. "Beautiful, huh?" Libby says, "but Henry, it's only reflected light. It needs the sun. And the Stantons are my sun. I lived my life drawing light and warmth from them. ... And they don't need ... me at all."

In the end, it is the movie's depiction of these realities of political life, of the drives that motivate politicians, of the hold they have on those in their orbit, and of the compromises they make with themselves and force on all those who would support them, that may feel the most moving — and authentic — to anyone who has ever been around a campaign.

Reflecting on Libby's epiphany and the Stantons' response to it, Mr. Nichols said: "What Libby says is unarguably, deeply true, and their answer is truer: 'That's what happened; we didn't know how the world worked; now we know.' And Emma says it with infinite sadness. And so do we all."

Not everyone will agree with the director's take, of course, though it helps his case that voters have twice elected Mr. Clinton, and now more than ever overwhelmingly approve of his performance, for all his known, presumed, alleged and imagined flaws.

FOR Mr. Nichols, who began his career in nightclub comedy with Ms. May at the twilight of the Eisenhower era, when an anarchic upstart named Lenny Bruce spent six months as their opening act, "Primary Colors" and the President whose complexities it parses, completes a profound arc in itself. This is the director, after all, who fought bitterly, and often unsuccessfully, to retain in "Virginia Woolf" language then considered so strong as to help spawn the modern movie rating system.

"One could see that comedy was changing," Mr. Nichols said of those long-ago days in the 1960's. "But I couldn't imagine it getting here. It feels so peculiar."

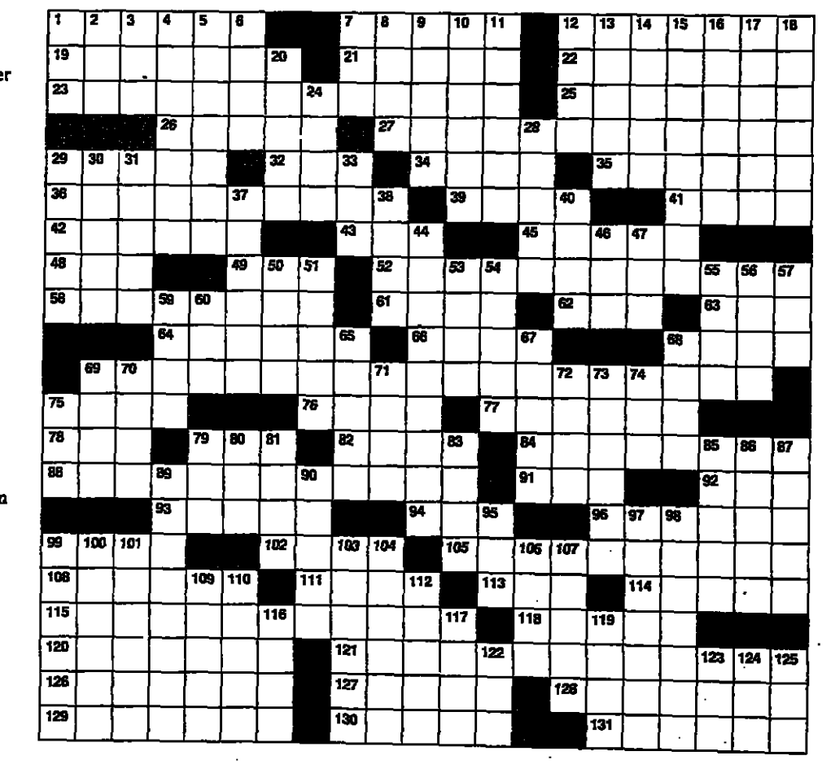
When Mr. Klein was still Anonymous, Mr. Nichols won the movie rights over other bidders in part because he told the author's agent that he saw the story as being about one of the movies' favorite subjects: honor.

Honor is what 'Casablanca' is about," Mr. Nichols said. "I think 'Primary Colors' is about honor now, when the moral ground has fallen out from beneath our feet. When I was growing up, selling out was the big fear, it was the worst thing you could say about someone: 'Fred sold out. I'm afraid he sold out.' That doesn't even exist as an idea anymore. In the movies, anyway, financial and artistic success have moved closer and closer until they're now one and the same. People talk about movies pretty much only in terms of what they grossed."

"Now if you're talking about a moral basis for life and work," the director added, "this is a serious change, this is a big deal. So if you're running in a primary for the Presidency of a place in a world in which this is taking place, where the hell is honor? Where do you begin to look for it?" □

CENTRAL FIGURES

BY FRANK LONGO / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ



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DOWN

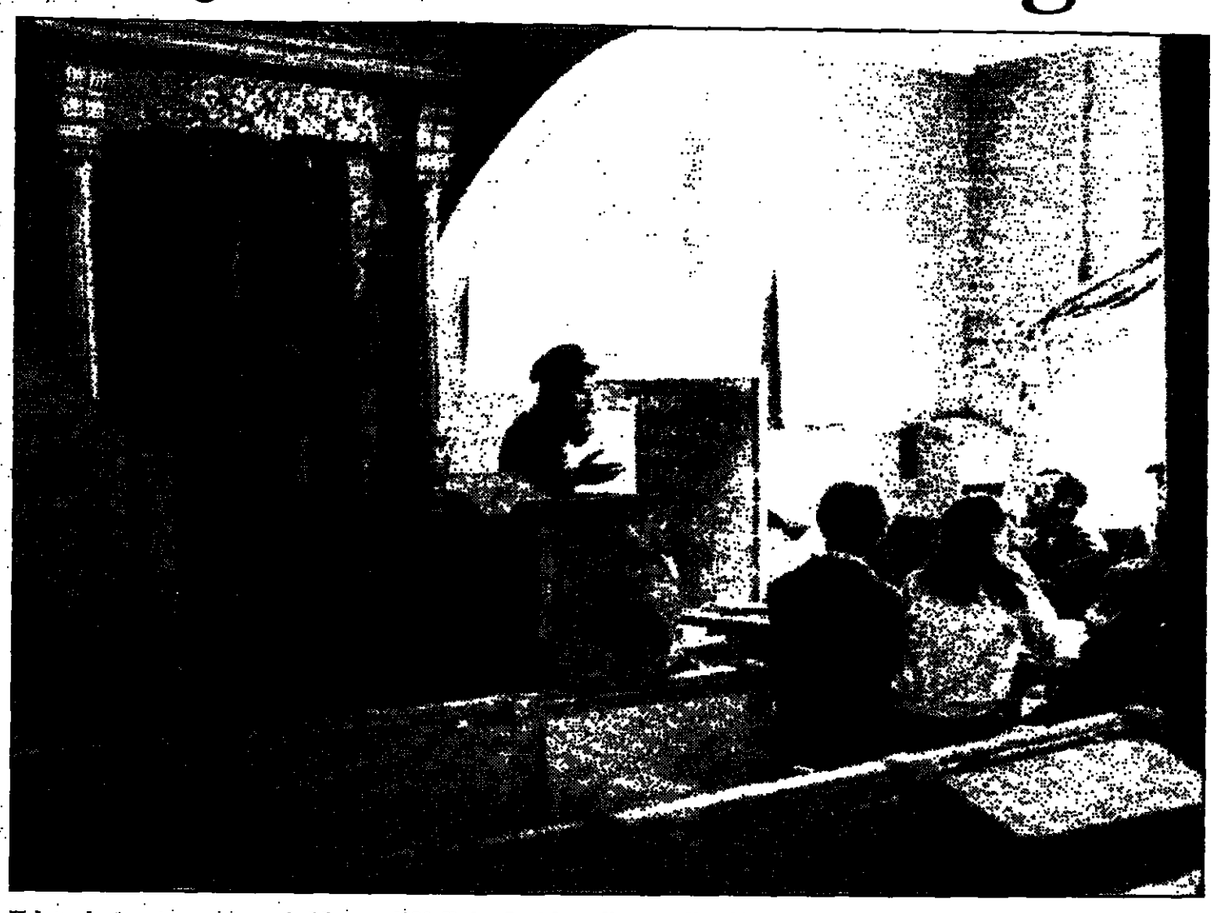
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7 —— Canals
8 "Java" trumpeter
9 "The Mill on the Floss" writer
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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A timely Jewish flowering

Although fewer Russian Jews are flocking to Israel, Jewish education is becoming a legitimate, respected entity in the former Soviet Union. Abraham Rabinovich reports



Hebrew lesson at a synagogue in Moscow, 1990. Today Jewish studies are offered by some 54 universities and institutes in the former Soviet Union.
(Doron Bacher)

In the august halls of the Russian Academy of Sciences last month, some 400 scholars from throughout the former Soviet Union gathered for three days to hear lectures in a field that until a decade before had been discussed only in surreptitious meetings behind curtained windows in private apartments – Jewish studies.

Of all the revolutions that have overtaken the area, not the least startling is the legitimacy that has suddenly been bestowed on Jewish studies by the Russian intellectual establishment after a protracted history of suppression.

"Until 1987, Jewish studies were proscribed in the Soviet Union," says Jonathan Porath of the Joint Distribution Committee, an Israeli educator involved in the development of programs there. "It was considered cosmopolitan and Zionist and was forbidden. Today there are 54 universities and institutes in the former Soviet Union with Jewish studies programs."

The prestigious Russian Academy not only lent its premises to last month's congress but was one of its official sponsors.

The only institutions of higher learning where Hebrew was taught until a decade ago were Moscow State University, where the course was designed primarily for the needs of the KGB and foreign service, and the university in Tbilisi, Georgia, which had managed to preserve an independent tradition. (Dmitri Prokofiev, a non-Jew with impeccable Hebrew who is Israel Radio's correspondent in Moscow, was a graduate of the Moscow course.)

Jewish students were themselves subject to a strict quota system. The flowering of Jewish studies has implications not only regarding potential emigration to Israel but the stabilization of a self-aware Jewish community in the former Soviet Union.

Ralph Goldman, then head of the Joint, first sensed the promise of perestroika at a breakfast meeting in New York in 1986 with the Soviet Minister of Cults, as the minister for religious affairs was known in Eastern Europe. The Joint, which had been invited in the 1920s to help Soviet Jewish tradesmen become farmers, was expelled by Stalin in 1938, along with other foreign organizations. It would subsequently be accused of involvement in the Doctors' Plot and other nefarious activity.

At the New York meeting, the minister asked Goldman if the Joint was willing to resume its activities in the Soviet Union. The minister mentioned economic involvement and cultural exchanges. Goldman made it clear that the Joint had its own agenda. "I said that this time we come back to Judaize the Jews."

'This program responds to a deeply felt need among a large segment of Jewish intellectuals who do not go to synagogue and will not emigrate to Israel'

Searching for ways to reach out to Soviet Jewry without unduly alarming the authorities, Goldman began by establishing a cantorial training program in Moscow. In 1990, the late Prof. Moshe Davis of Hebrew University asked Goldman if he could arrange to have Soviet educators attend a Jerusalem workshop run by the International Center for University Teaching of Jewish Civilization, which Davis had established. The object was to create a nucleus of academics in the field of Jewish studies in the Soviet Union, which was rapidly opening up under prime minister Mikhail Gorbachev. Candidates would be academics in "crossover" fields like history and sociology who were interested in focusing on the Jewish aspects of their subjects. Goldman approached the head of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and 10 academics, not all Jewish, were dispatched to Jerusalem. Similar workshops were held every year subsequently.

In 1994, with 40 graduates of the program already teaching a range of Jewish-oriented subjects at FSU universities, it was decided to hold a conference in Moscow. "We didn't really understand the power of this," says Porath. "We thought maybe 30-40 people would come. About 100 showed up. It was as if they had surfaced out of dungeons. They were asking each other, 'Are you teaching this?' 'Are you doing this?'"

The time had clearly come to establish a domestic support system in Moscow. It took the form of an offshoot of Jerusalem's International Center, the Moscow Center for University Teaching of Jewish Civilization. The organization, known more concisely as Sefer (book, in Hebrew), is run by Russian academics and receives an annual $100,000 from the Joint for workshops, congresses, developing curricula and other activities. Funds are also raised locally. Selected academics continue to attend two-week workshops in Jerusalem every summer.

"This program responds to a deeply felt need among a large segment of Jewish intellectuals who do not go to synagogue and will not emigrate to Israel," says Porath. "There had been previous attempts to engage these people in Jewish enterprises. It is worth noting that Russia is one of the few places in the world where intellectuals count. A Sakharov can change Russian society. For 70 years before perestroika, Judaism was either distorted, lied about or ignored. Now you have a group of serious academics who take a public stand that Jewish life is legitimate, is valid, is an important part of world culture. This echoes in the Russian and the Russian Jewish consciousness."

The respectability now bestowed on Jewish studies by the non-Jewish Russian academic world is highly significant

In this context, the respectability bestowed on Jewish studies by the non-Jewish Russian academic world is highly significant. The Russian Academy of Sciences has granted Sefer official academic status, and Sefer's rented office is located in the academy building.

At the first conference, organized by Sefer in 1994 near Moscow, the keynote speaker was Prof. Nikita Tolstoy, great-grandson of Lev Tolstoy. "He said his great-grandfather had been very close to Jewish things," recalls Porath, "and had studied Hebrew in his old age." Prof. Tolstoy, who had returned from exile in France, told the Sefer conference that after 70 years of Communism, the Russian people were adrift and searching for roots. A believer himself, he said that the Russian Church had always had a deep affinity for the Old Testament.

The flowering of Jewish studies in the former Soviet Union comes as the great wave of aliya which started in 1989 has begun to subside. Goldman estimates that there are still 1.5 million persons there who regard themselves as Jewish even though many are not halachically Jewish.

Now 83, Goldman has retained responsibility for Joint operations in Moscow and travels between New York, Jerusalem and Moscow four or five times a year. In an address to the Sefer conference last month, he noted that David Ben-Gurion in 1958 had predicted that a great wave of aliya from the Soviet Union would revitalize Israel and help make it a great scientific center. "Although I assume," added Ben-Gurion, "that a great part, maybe half, will not come."

Asked in 1960 to envision the world 25 years thence, he said "The Cold War will be the legacy of the past. The internal pressure of the intelligentsia which incessantly grows in Russia for more freedom and the pressure of the masses for raising the standard of living may bring about democratization of the Soviet Union during the next quarter of a century."

It was 25 years after that interview that Gorbachev assumed power and began pulling up the shutters around his country. Ben-Gurion's prediction of that event was as uncannily accurate as his forecast of the two roads that Soviet Jewry would take.

Born with a spolden goon

Spoo-ner-ism n: transposition of initial letters etc. of two or more words (you have hissed the mystery lectures). – the Exford Onglish Dictionary

Not Page One



Sam Orbaum

It's one thing to be related to someone in Who's Who, but how many people you know have a close ancestor listed in the dictionary?

Reverend William Spooner might grin in his spave to know how his family turned out. An Oxford educator and high Anglican priest, his great-great-granddaughter is a Berkeley-educated Orthodox Jew living in Safed.

Adriel Avler – sorry, Avriel Adler heard her first spoonerism when she was about nine years old. "One of us inadvertently came out with a spoonerism, and then my grandmother came out with a whole lot of them," says the 37-year-old mother of twins.

Rev. Spooner was a curious legend in his own time, a verbal dyslexic with a stammer, an albino handicapped by weak eyesight and a poor physique. But it was his unintentional barbarism with the language that won him enduring, eponymous fame, still cherished a century later by tinkerers of the English language.

He was ordained a deacon in 1872 and a priest three years later. Compensated for his freakish looks, nervous manner and peculiar mental kink with a brilliant intellect, Spooner rose to the highest position available to him, warden of Oxford University's New College.

By drop, till he had produced the little purple mound which would have been the end-product if he had spilled claret on the tablecloth and had then cast a heap of salt on the pool to absorb it."

Fact or fable, such metaphases are heirlooms for Avriel. She didn't inherit much else. When the reverend's daughter Catherine rejected his teachings, fled to London in 1921 and subsequently converted to Judaism, he disowned her. "He probably did the Anglican equivalent of sitting *shiva* for her," says Avriel.

Comparing ancestral notes once with a friend, Avriel came across a striking similarity. "Her parents were Baptist missionaries in Africa, and she's now a Lubavitcher. That's not unusual for children of very gung-ho missionaries trained to analyze the Old and New Testaments. When you get to the end of the Old Testament, it says that's it, there ain't no more, so the question always comes up, where does this extra book come from? I've heard of this happening a few times, especially among fundamentalists."

Catherine married Ya'acov Sheinman, a Tewish jailor from Vitebsk. (He clinched a small place in history as the inventor of the "Japanese tailoring" concept, whereby a suit is ordered by measurement and then mailed.)

Their eldest daughter, Mariaosha, emigrated to New York. The family continued Westward Ho, the next generation ending up in California, where Avriel was born. She grew up in Los Angeles, but continued the migration to raise Spooner's great-great-great-grandchildren in Israel.

The line stretches from Rev. Spooner, high Anglican priest, to an Orthodox Jew in Safed – with a few erotic blacks in between

By 1885, the term "spoonerism" was popular in Oxford circles; it quickly spread in England, and by the mid-'20s – well within Spooner's lifetime – had become well known through much of the English-speaking world.

However, many of his famous slip-ups are undisputably apocryphal, invented by his coterie of devotees and attributed to him. In *Spooner*, biographer William Hayter barely deigns to refer to spoonerisms at all, finding enough to fill 180 pages without giving much credibility to Spooner's ultimate claim to fame.

To such dour historians I say: Take a lump in the jake. Mankind will, errantly if necessary, continue to believe such whimsical lore.

The more lowbrow compendium *Word People* at least gives credit to Spooner for uttering the first recorded spoonerism: "'The next hymn will be 'Kinkering Congs their tatles tike.'"

"You have hissed the mystery lectures," he is said to have admonished a lazy student, "and completely tasted two whole worms."

"Let me sew you to your sheet," is a famous one that he apparently never said, as well as "You are occupewing my pie."

Did he really toast the queen as "my queer dean," or refer to Jesus as "a shoving leopard"? Who knows, who cares; *somebody* said it.

Less renowned, but more credible, were Spooner's physical spoonerisms, his transposition of ideas: referring to someone having been eaten by missionaries, and repeatedly identifying "Dr. Childe's friend" as "Dr. Friend's child."

Perhaps the most dizzying example of Spooner getting things bass-ackwards is cited by Hayter, quoting A.J. Toynbee: "At a dinner party in Oxford, she [a friend] saw Dr. Spooner upset a salt-cellar and then reach for a decanter of claret. He then poured claret on the salt, drop

Avriel's favorite? She laughs gregariously. It seems the rev took a keen interest in geology, particularly glaciers. Once, out for a walk with his wife during a holiday in Switzerland, they appeared to have disappeared. When they finally showed up, he explained that they'd come across some erratic blocks – large boulders that remain after the passage of a glacier. "We strolled up a long valley, and when we turned a corner we found ourselves completely surrounded by erotic blacks."

That one, she says, is the funniest she's ever come across.

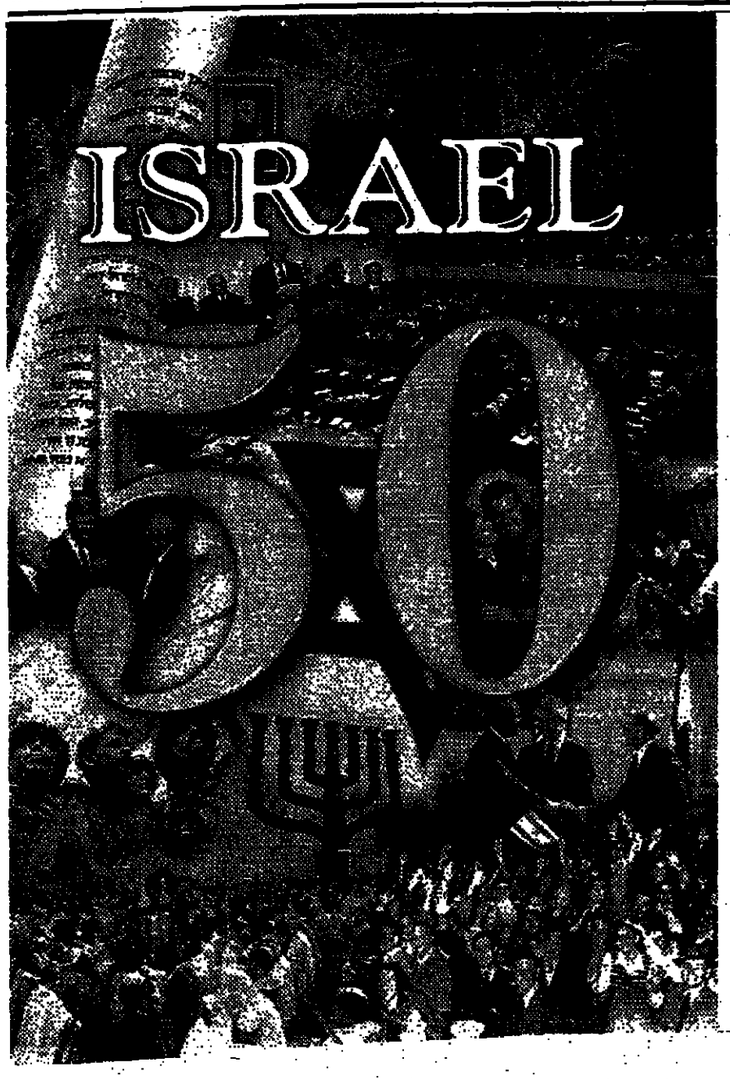
"A few of them have become family traditions. Spooner admitted he loved to 'pedal gently round on a well-boiled icicle.' That one got repeated a lot." She claims not to speak in spoonerisms, or not intentionally, but sometimes it's hard to resist. In a 1981 article for the *Daily Cal* titled "Will Someone Please Hiccup My Pat?" (his call for help after a gust of wind left him bareheaded), Avriel wrote that "his death in 1930, at the age of 86, was a blushing crow to collectors of... spoonerisms."

If it is true that "to hair is uman," I daresay we will forever be making what Spooner himself called "occasional felicities in verbal diction."

Well, anyway, we can only hope.

We here at this newspaper have certainly pun our dart. A dozen years or so ago, a now-forgotten desk man produced – quite unintentionally – the most perfectly pithy, laconically eloquent headline begging to be spoonerized: "Stocks sink."

Spooner would have considered that sell wed.



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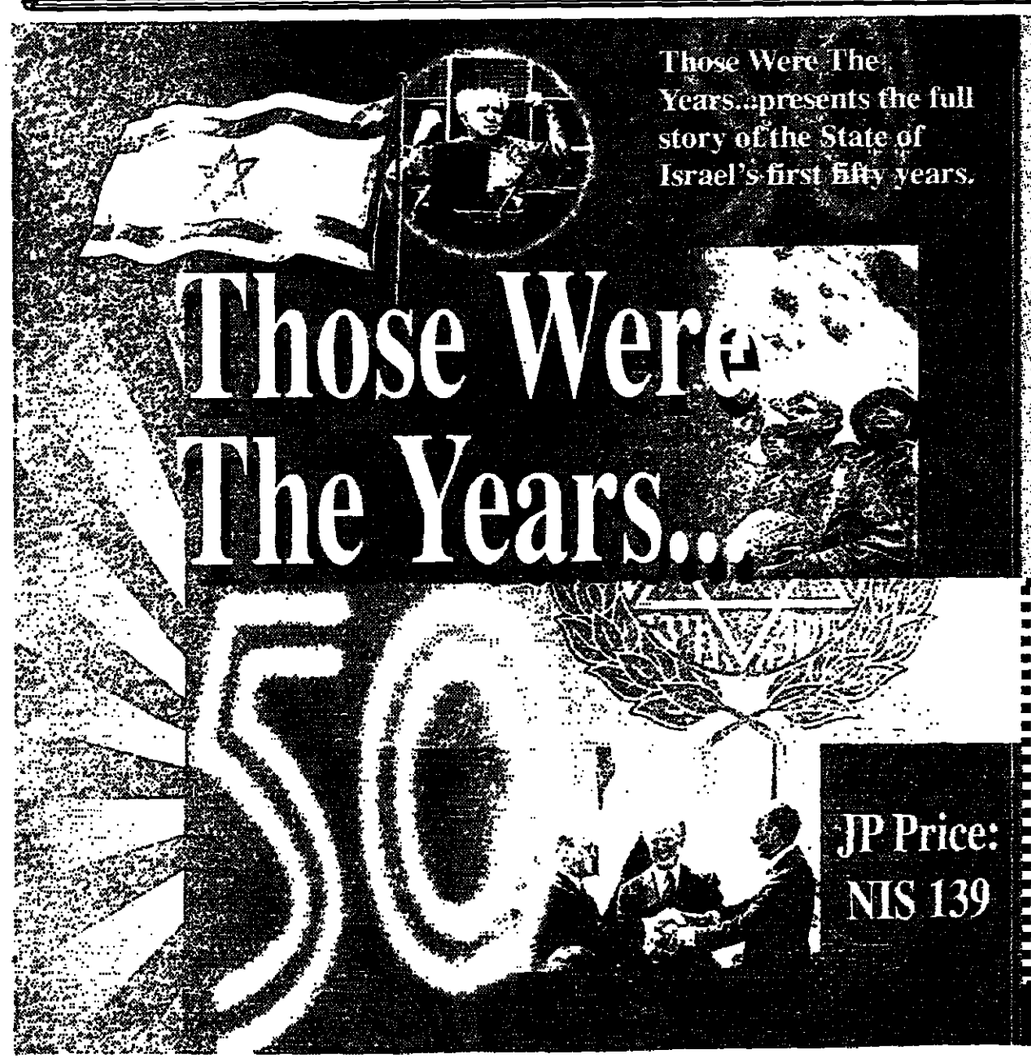
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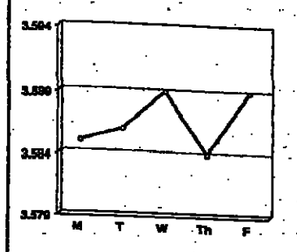
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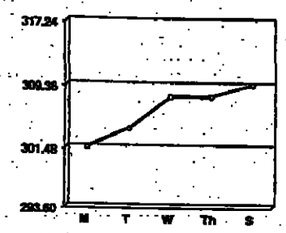
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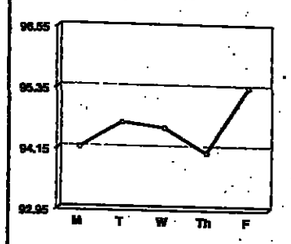
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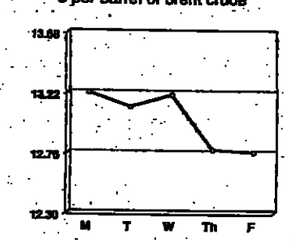
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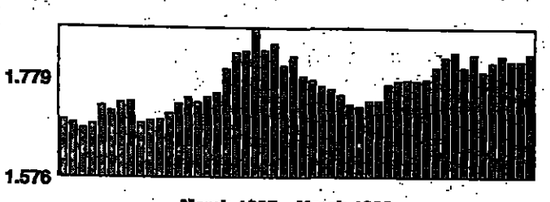
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$ per ounce



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$ per barrel of brent crude

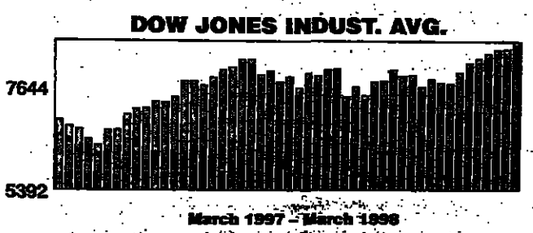


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Public committee to advise start-ups

A public advisory committee on start-up firms has been established by the Israel Export Institute, the Manufacturers Association, and the Industry and Trade Industry's Chief Scientist's Office.

The committee, headed by Dr. Yossi Vardi, held its first meeting on Thursday. Amir Hayek, director of the Israel Export Institute, said that the existing aid today for start-ups does not meet their special needs.

The export institute has also established a special unit to assist start-ups with drawing up business plans, marketing, and finding financing.

"Start-ups have mostly received assistance in research and development; the problem they encounter is in the transition from research to business and marketing their products," according to an institute spokesman.

Nina Gilbert

CPI unexpectedly falls 0.1%

By DAVID HARRIS and DAN GERSTENFELD

The February consumer price index dropped unexpectedly by 0.1 percent last month after rising 0.3% in January, in what is seen as another sign of a slowdown in the economy. The figure was well below analysts' expectations. They had predicted a moderate rise of 0.2% to 0.4%. During the last 12 months prices rose 5.6%.

The Central Bureau of Statistics attributed the decline to falling prices of vegetables, fruits, clothing and shoes. The decline was partly offset by food and housing prices.

Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz said that slowing economic activity is reflected in lower inflation. Industrialists were also saying that the low inflation figure is another indicator of the "dramatic" slowdown in economic activity, a dangerous and ongoing appreciation of the shekel and a decline of raw material prices abroad.

Manufacturers Association head, Dan Propper, said that this is the inevitable outcome of a destructive combination of restrictive monetary and fiscal policies.

"Government policy is not answering the need of renewed growth, increasing exports and lowering unemployment," Propper said.

At the same time, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman welcomed the figure saying "it's good that residents will be paying less for their products and mortgages."

He added that the decline of the CPI is part of a positive trend that will lead to the stabilization of the economy and will enable the implementation of growth programs.

Meanwhile, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel presented the cabinet with the first quarterly inflation report, adopting a practice common in other Western countries.

Speaking at the cabinet's weekly meeting, Frenkel said the correct conditions are currently in place to allow for the speedy reduction of inflation, which would enable a period of long-term fixed prices.

"Ongoing price stability is an essential foundation for durable growth, which will create long-term jobs," read a statement from Frenkel, issued to coincide with the report. "Under the present conditions in the economy, it will be possible to achieve this without having to further tighten monetary policy."

This is the clearest indication to date that the central bank intends to continue reducing inflation.

Frenkel told ministers that decisions concerning monthly interest rates are based not just on the previous month's consumer price index and money supply (M1) but that a much longer-term approach is taken by the monetary forum within the central bank.

Additional factors such as the balance of payments, economic activity, the labor market and foreign exchange performance are also taken into consideration.

Inflation was 7% last year, while the government had set its annual target at 7%-10%. Both the central bank and Treasury firmly believe it is possible to further cut inflation this year, even though the cabinet set the 1998 target once again at 7% -10%.

During a speech on March 2, Neeman said "inflation... this year, unless something unexpected happens, such as a war, will be 6% or less."

Neeman then said he does not believe there is a need to set a new inflation target for this year.



Japanese prime minister visits Indonesia

Indonesian President Suharto (right) welcomes Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto at the president's bungalow in Jakarta yesterday. Hashimoto was expected to relay the message that Tokyo would do all it could within an international framework to help Indonesia through its economic crisis. (Reuters)

ECI planning to offer $26–$27 per share for Teledata

Neither ECI nor Teledata have officially confirmed reports of merger negotiations between them, though three weeks have passed since the press revealed them.

As far as is known at present, ECI is presently conducting due diligence in Teledata, with the aim of making the company a share purchase offer. Indications are that the ECI purchase offer will consist partly of cash payment and partly of convertible debentures and ECI share options. The deal will evidently reflect a price of $26-$27 per Teledata share, which is within the price range in which Teledata launched its second Wall Street issue about 10 months ago.

Payment for each Teledata share will be composed of $20 cash, $4 convertible debentures and $2-$3 ECI options. This is 33% higher than the $19.5 price at which the Teledata share closed on Friday on Wall Street.

The significance of the $26-$27 price range is that Poalim Investments, controlling shareholder of Teledata, can sell the shares without being exposed to a class action on the part of Teledata shareholders, having purchased the shares in the recent US issuance.

Poalim Investments, together with the investee company Ofir Holdings, disposed of large blocks of Teledata shares in the past year, both by offer for sale in the second issue and thereafter, when the share was trading at $35-$40.

The US shareholders are liable to grasp at this fact, and sue Poalim Investments or its controlling shareholder, the Dovrat Shrem group, if it should decide to sell the control in Teledata at less than $26 per share.

Meanwhile, Poalim Investments yesterday published the following official response to press reports concerning Teledata: "Poalim Investments announces that it is not negotiating for the sale of its shares in Teledata. Teledata received applications from a number of concerns in Israel and abroad, further to which it is negotiating business cooperation. The upshot of these negotiations may result, inter alia, in a merger of Teledata with another company."

In the past month, since a possible merger between the two was first reported, the Teledata share has risen sharply from $13 to $20. Interest in Teledata is expressed also in trading turnovers, which rose from 150,000-200,000 shares to 500,000 shares daily. (Globes)

Cabinet gives committee 10 days to decide on steel import duty

By NINA GILBERT

A committee is to decide within 10 days whether to impose a duty on steel that local producers claim is being imported from Italy at below market cost, under a compromise worked out by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu at yesterday's cabinet meeting.

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky submitted a proposal to the government to impose the duty to protect the local industries.

"In 1991, the government decided on an import exposure program, in which the government committed to prevent unfair trade practices such as imports that flood the market, and therefore a law was enacted on import duties," Sharansky said at the cabinet meeting.

According to Sharansky, this practice is a fundamental principle of the World Trade Organization which states that trade is not free unless it is fair and, among other things, does not flood the market and does not cause real damage to local industries.

Sharansky said that implementing a decision on the duty is a basic tool in fighting unemployment. According to Sharansky's proposal, a duty of $12 to $22 a ton would be imposed on steel imports from Italy for a two-year period.

However, the Treasury has refused to sign the order despite the fact that the committee has found that the steel is flooding the market. Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman is opposed to the move on the grounds that it hurts efforts to open the economy to imports and competition.

As a result, the cabinet decided not to make a decision on the matter and to refer it back to the committee. However, if Neeman still refuses to sign the order after the committee's decision, the cabinet will discuss the matter again.

Steel importers yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice against a government imposition of the duty.

Steel producers first submitted the complaint against the imports from Italy in 1993. Yehuda Pladot, a steel company in Ashdod, recently fired 50 of workers and sent another 100 on unpaid vacation due to the situation.

Manufacturers Association President Dan Propper called on the government to support Sharansky's proposal to prevent the destruction of the local steel industry and the loss of hundreds of jobs.

The imposition of such duties to prevent unfair trade is also employed in the United States and Europe, Propper noted.

Railways bill presented to cabinet

By DAVID HARRIS

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday introduced the eagerly-anticipated railways bill to the cabinet, according to the ministry spokesman's office.

The bill, if passed, will pave the way for the creation of a government company that will operate independently of the current Ports and Railways Authority.

There is wide support for the measure in the Knesset, said a ministry official, who explained the company would have far greater autonomy than the existing Israel Railways, which its general manager Amos Uzani recently described as "the poor partner of the authority."

The bill should take some three to four months to make its way through the Knesset, said Uzani. It would allow the company to issue tenders for the upgrade of lines and the construction of new railroads, said a ministry official.

The tenders for new lines will be issued on a BOT (Build, Operate, and Transfer) basis.

The BOTs would be offered for an initial five to 10 years, but this would be negotiable, depending on the length of time before the lines become profitable.

BOT is a relatively new approach to infrastructure development which enables direct private sector investment in large-scale projects such as roads, bridges, and powerplants. A private company (or consortium) agrees with a government to invest in a project. The company then secures financing to construct the project. The private developer then owns, maintains, and manages the facility for a concessionary period and recoups the investment through charges or tolls. After the concessionary period, the company transfers ownership and operation of the facility to the government or relevant state authority.

The proposed bill gives the National Infrastructure Ministry responsibility for the railways.

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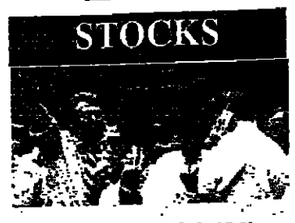
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TASE gains as investors see bank profits rising



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Stocks rose yesterday for a fifth day, as banking stocks extended gains on investor expectations that financial companies will post higher earnings during the fourth quarter.

Bank Hapoalim advanced 1.6 percent to NIS 9.20, Bank Leumi rose 1.2% to 6.69, and Israel Discount Bank gained 3.7% to NIS 3.93. That helped the Maof Index of the 25 largest companies to rise 0.48% to 309.36.

Bank "profits are only getting larger and larger," said Dror Kraus, an analyst at Koor Investment House. "Foreign buyers are interested in banking [stocks.]"

Banks are scheduled to report fourth-quarter results before the end of the month. Israel's banks are attracting investors because they're cheaper than their peers abroad when comparing the stock price to earnings per share, analysts have said.

Avi Meir, an analyst at Israel General Bank, said foreign investors are returning to the Tel Aviv bourse after tensions eased over Iraq and are attracted to banking stocks on expectations of improved fourth-quarter earnings.

Earlier gains by the Maof Index of more than 1% were pared by reports that February's consumer price index, scheduled to be released after the market closed, would rise a higher-than-expected 0.5%, Kraus said. The CPI, which was released after the end of the trading day, declined 0.1%, well below analysts expectations.

"The market is in a holding position regarding the consumer price index," said Meir. The CPI rose 0.3% in January, bringing the annual inflation rate to 6.9%.

Koor Industries declined 2.8% to 422. Israel's largest industrial company said last week that vice chairman Jonathan Kolber will succeed Benjamin Gaon as chief executive beginning July 1. Koor's American depositary receipts dropped 1.3% from Tuesday to Friday, the trading sessions corresponding to the three-day holiday weekend here.

Investment Co. of Bank Hapoalim gained 2.4% to NIS 131.4. Aharon Dovrat, chairman of Teledata Communications, which is held 23% by Poalim Investments, said the maker of telecommunications network equipment will decide within two weeks about beginning talks on cooperation proposals received from several companies, among them ECI Telecommunications.

(Bloomberg)

Nike to lay off 450 US workers

Nike Inc. said it will fire 450, or 3.5 percent, of its US workforce to cut costs, as the maker of athletic clothes and shoes faces declining demand in Asia and the US.

About 250 of the job cuts will be made at Nike's headquarters in Beaverton, Oregon, and 200 will be at other locations in the US. Nike currently has about 13,000 employees in the US and 23,600 workers worldwide, including its subsidiaries, said Lee Weinstein, a company spokesman.

The company said further job cuts will be made outside the US and are expected to be announced Wednesday. The job cuts come almost a month after Nike warned its third-quarter earnings will fall below expectations as retailers marked down its slow-selling athletic shoes and ordered fewer shoes in Asia and the US. Since the warning, the average earnings estimate has declined to 25 cents a share from 39 cents, according to analysts polled by IBES International Inc.

The job cuts were first reported in *The Oregonian* yesterday. Nike has said it will take a restructuring charge against earnings. Company officials declined today to provide details about when those charges will be taken and how much they will be. Those details will be released on Wednesday, when Nike reports earnings, said company spokesman Rick Anguilla.. Nike's fiscal year ends in May.

Nike has said that a higher-than-expected number of retailers in Asia canceled orders for its shoes. Nike's profit in the region was also hurt by aggressive markdowns, particularly in Japan. In the US, more close-out sales than expected will hurt its gross margins, the company said. This is the third time Nike has had to fire workers, the company said.

(Bloomberg)

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Bezeq	935	2.5
Blue Square	3310	-1.8
Bromine	3360	1.2
Cal Electronics	55700	2.2
Cal Industries	1945	0.6
Cal Insurance	3460	-0.9
Cal Israel 1	108.9	-0.1
Cal Trade	0	0
Dan Hotels	930	0
Dankner	1800	-2.8
Danya	898	2.7
Dead Sea Works 0.1	962	1.2
Delek 0 1	13450	0.3
Delek Car	619	0
Development Mort	25200	-1.6
Discount Bank	393	3.6
Discount Inv.	9270	-1.1
Elbit 0.003	1300	-2.7
Elbit imaging	3490	-1.4
Elbit system	4530	-0.2
Elco	2130	-0.9
Elco Industries	4730	0
Electra	15330	1.5
Electra App	1680	1.8
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Elite Ind. 5	10680	-1.1
Elron 0.003	5950	0
FIBI 5	68900	0.6
First Int'l 1	53800	2
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Formula	10020	-0.7
General Bank	11570	0
Granit Hacarmel	666	6
Hadarom Prop.	6450	0
Ham-Let	2290	1.3
Hapoalim 0.1	920	1.5
Harel Mishmar 1	3320	0.6
Harel Mishmar 5	15660	-0.6
I.D.B. Dev.	7940	-0.3
I.D.B. Holdings	7900	-0.5
IDC	2160	-1.9
Ind Bldgs	664	0.6
Israel Chemicals	454	-1.1
Israel Corp. 1	24500	-0.4
Isrotel	720	0.7
Jaljva	630	0
JCT	32.4	0
JEC	1877	-1.4
Kitan	430	-0.9
Knafaim	4000	2.5
Koor	42200	-2.8
Leader	1431	-0.2
Leumi Insurance	204	0.5
Leumi Mortgage	95700	0.5
Lraz	4420	2.7
Makhteshim	2820	0.7
Maman	592	-1.4
Matab	3680	4.3
Mehadrin	12390	0.8
Mei Eden	1450	0.3
Melisaaron	1078	-2.9
Menorah Ins. 1	1420	2.7
Millenior	1651	0
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NATSVA REGULAR	1389	-1.9
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Ocri	8020	-0.9
Orbal	1860	1.1
Ormat Industries	490	-0.8
Osem Industries	1522	0.3
Petrochemicals	1912	1
Phoenix Ins. 1	5100	-1.4
Poalim Inv.	13140	2.4
Prop & Bldg	26000	-2.9
Salt Industries	1816	-0.5
Soket Bore	4730	1.1
Supersol	1107	1.7
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Tambour	740	-1.4
Teishot	213800	0
Tempo	1450	0
Tevel	14950	-0.2
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Adamim	413245	0
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Adsha	128	0
Adumim	305	0
Africa Hotels Bond B	86.8	0
Africa Hotels Warrant 2	43.5	7.4
Africa Hotels Warrant 3	7.7	-2.5
Africa Israel Hotels Bond A	128.5	-0.4
Afsek Ind	1998	-1
Agis Warrant 3	42	4.8
Agis Warrant 4	470	-14.9
Agish Int'l	386	0
Agn Investments	298	-5.1
Al-Ben	134.5	0
Al-Ben Bond A	107	-2.7
Alhe c2	98.5	0
Alhe w5	139	-1.4
Alhe wc5	0	0
Alliance	767	0
Alon	298	0
Alony-Hetz	465	-1.7
Alony-Hetz Bond A	225	0
Alrod	217	0.5
Alrod Warrant 1	10.8	-2.7
Alrov Bond D	76.2	0
Alrov Warrant 5	290	0
Alumir	163	0.6
Alumot	6820	-1.3
Amegar	214	-0.5
Amilec	341	0
Ammeil Warrant 1	15.8	-7.1
Ammal	544	0
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Analyst EMS	1282	0
Angel Trade	41.6	-0.5
Angel Trade Bond A	148	0
Angel Trade Bond B	115.5	0
Angel Trade Bond C	63.5	0
Angel Trade Warrant 2	1.3	0
Apcon	897	1
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Applicom	2505	0
Aracell Warrant 2	284	0
Arad	1989	-2
Arad Towels	965	0
Arazim	91	-0.5
Arazim Bond 1	235	0
Argaman	220	0
Arkadan	1100	0
Arpal	577	0
Aryt	93	1.6
Ashkelon Plywood	7.40	-1.5
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 1	233	0.4
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 2	132.5	0
Ashtad	469	-0.2
Ashtad Bond A	148	-0.3
Ashot	345	-5
Ashot Bond A	164	0
Ashpara	85.5	0
Ashtrom Bond 1	156	0
Ashtrom Bond 2	151.5	0
Ashtrom Ind.	577	0
Ashtrom Prop.	237	0
Ashtrom P Bond 1	91	-0.5
Ashtrom p warrant a	52.5	5.9
Ashtrom Bond C	94	-0.5
Ashtrom Warrant 2	34.9	0
Ashtrom Warrant 3	90	0
Asidon	1791	0.5
Asmar	144	-0.3
ATA	135	0
ATA Bond A	300	-0.7
Atzmon	4542	9
Aura	451	-3
Avanot Bond A	155.5	0
Averbuch Formica	654	0
Aviv	600	0
Avni Bond 1	143	0
Avni Bond 2	29.5	-0.6
Avnet	1.9	0
Avnet Bond 2	90	-0.6
Avnet Warrant 2	71.5	-4.7
Avsom	525	0
Azorim	338	-1
Azorim Properties Bond 3	169	0
Azorim Warrant A	540	-4.7
Azorim Warrant B	610	0
Badash Bond 1	49.5	-0.4
Bash	277	0
Bakenbare 1	359	4.7
Bakenbare Bond A	126	0
Bakenbare Warrant 2	17.5	0
Balkan	5018	19
Barnea'saf	1265	4.5
Barnea'saf Bond A	139.5	-0.4
Bar	326	0
Bar Bond A	115	1.2
Barad	297	-0.3
Baranowitz	757	0
Baranowitz Bond 1	0	0
Barkan	754	2.3
Barsol	126	0
Bartal	131.5	0
Baumel Moshe	153.5	0
BaySide Bond 2	86.4	-1.3
BaySide Warrant D	2500	0
Beit Shemesh	1202	2.6
Belmon	250	0
Ben Yakar Bond A	170.5	-0.3
Ben Yakar Bond B	95	1.5
Ben Yakar Gal	4223	0
Ben Yakar Warrant 2	11.5	10.5
Berman	152.5	-5.7
Bet	903	0
Bilu Bond A	151	-0.3
Binar	552	7.2
Bin	266	0
Bokos Bond B	84	-1.2
bokos gad warrant 1	53	-2.3
Bonei Tichon	456	0
Borgour	507	0
Boulous Brothers	142.5	-3.1
Boulous Brothers Bond 1	253	-0.4
Boulous GD	420	0
Boulous GD Bond A	128	-0.4
Brand	91.5	0
Brit	72	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Brok Side	36.6	-0.5
Brosh	139	9
Building Bank	2135	0
Building Resou.	3179	5
C Holdings	656	0
C Holdings Bond 5	105.5	-0.5
C Holdings Warrant 3	18.7	5.1
Cassarea 1	5043	0
Caniel	3300	-1.2
Capital	897	1
Capital Bond A	115.5	0
Caprice	425	-10
Cargal	692	0.4
Carmel	509	-1
Carmel	531	0
Castro	616	-6
Catalena 1	555	0
CDI	203	0
Cemerical	730	-4.2
Centre	103.5	0
Centre Bond 1	126	0
Cham	493	0
Chayun Computers	119	0
Chemical	405	0
Chim-Ner	501	0
CI Systems	268	0
Cidab	207	0
Cial Computer Warrant 3	63	5
Cial Computers	12510	9.6
Cial Industries Bond	200	0
Cial Israel 5	480	0
Cial Retail	56099	0
Cohen Bem	190	0
Cohen Dev.	359	0
Cohen MM	200	0
Cold Storage 1	1610	0
Cold Storage 5	8580	0
Cold Storage and Supply Bond 1	247	0
Comps	198.5	-1.8
Compl Warrant 1	17	-12.8
Computek	198.5	0
Comtech	296	0
Comtrans	933	0
Contal	816	0.2
Contractors	20249	0
Coral Beach	944	1.7
Credit Line	3.5	0
Credit Lines Bond A	32.5	0
Cyclone 1	2010	-5
Cyclone Bond 1	241	0
Cyclone Bond 2	145	0
Dalton	1838	5.3
Dalton Bond 1	338	0
Dalin	3	0
Dan Rent-A-Car	743	0
Dan Rent-A-Car Bond A	158.5	0
Danber 1	3553	0
Danbar 5	16573	0
Danbar Bond A	275	0
Danber Resources	6492	-1.2
Danber Resources Bond B	159	-0.9
Danbar Tech.	6789	0
Danbar Technologies Bond A	152.5	-0.3
Daniel	70.5	0
Daniel Bond A	91	0
Daniel Personnel	2950	3.4
Daniel Warrant 2	720	3.5
Dankner Bond 1	203	0
Dankner Bond 2	136.5	-0.4
Dankner Bond 3	90.3	0
Dankner Warrant C	290	0
Dankner Warrant D	32.4	-10
Danly	792	0
Darad	99.5	0
DARBAN BOND 2	98	-0.2
Darban Bond A	213	0
DARBAN WS	151	12.6
Darban Warrant 3	120	-0.8
Darexa	136	-2.2
Darlon	119.5	0
Dash Investment	818	1
Data	615	0
Decision Systems	414	10.1
Degem Systems	409	0
Delek Drillings	8.5	0
Delek Oil	1480	0
Delta 1	3345	0
Delta 3	6986	-0.3
Destiny	1070	2.5
Digel	151	0
Dimon	1706	0.5
Discount 01	0	0
Dolav	403	0
Dolev Bond A	137.5	0
Dolev warrant 1	66	0
Dormotor	440	0
Dormotor Bond	145	2.5
Dor Chem	382	-2.6
Dorc w1	129	-1.1
Dorexa	97.5	0
Dori c1	90.5	-1.1
Dor Engineering	474	0
Dor Engineering Bond A	135	0
Dovrat Bond A	132	0.8
Dovrat Shrem	1239	1
Dovrat Shrem Warrant 3	80	0
DSL	1223	2.5
Dubek M	2.2	0
Dubek S	2.2	0
Dunitz	292	0
DYG Industries	513	1.8
E & M Computing	1111	0
Edgar Alban	114.5	0
Edgar Industries	172.5	0
Edgar Inv. Bond C	83.5	0
Edgar Inv. Warrant 4	0	0
Edgar Inv. Warrant 5	23.2	-6.8
Edgar Bond A	98	0
Eini	242	3.9
Eitam	347	2.1
El Bad	1700	-2.2
El Cami	737	0
El Cami Bond 1	154	0
Elad	436	0
Elad Bond A	188.5	-0.3
Elad Bond B	137	-1.1
Elad c3	72	-1.4
Elad w5	51	0
Elbit Computers Bond B	119.5	0
Elbit Computers Warrant 2	721	-3
Eldan Tech.	192	4.1
Electronics Line	550	3.8
Elgar	4590	0
Elishav	356	0
Eltech Ind.	827	-1
Elsam	369	2.8
Ela	451	0
Ela Bond A	143	-0.3
Emin	3312	-2
Emon Warrant 2	2220	5.3
Emek	127	0
Emyle	558	0
Enzel Const.	509	0
ESE	1957	0.3
Eshed Robotech	211	0
Even	365	0
Evergreen	2807	0
Excellence	1978	0.5
Export Inv.	845	-1.1
Extra	164.5	1.9
Feldman	165	7.1
Feldman Bond A	143	0
Feldman Ind.	187	0
Feldman Warrant 3	18	0
Feraliisers 1	128	0.8
Feuchtwanger 1	9880	-1
Feuchtwanger 5	47500	-1.1
Fidelity	2702	0
Five J Jewelers	307	0
Five J Jewelers Bond 2	119	-1.7
Formica Source	199	0
Frutarom	307	0
Gahelet	16406	1.3
Galcom	219	2.8
Galran	1213	-1
Gama	216	-0.5
Gamatronic	591	0
Gambit	1327	0
Gan Shmoel Bond A	98	0
Gan Shmoel Warrant 3	227	0
Gan Shmuel	843	0
Ganei Hadar	403	2.5
Gap Development	114	0
Gap Holdings	301	5
Gap Warrant 2	12.2	-31.8
Gazit	680	-1
Gazit Bond B	146	0
Gazit Bond C	115.5	-0.4
Gazit Warrant 4	0	0
Gibor Bond 1	65	0
Gibor Bond A	85	0
Gibor Sabrina	62	0
Gibor Sport	690	4.2
Gibor Warrant 2	97	12.1
Gilboa	140	9.4
Gigo	134	0
Gilbar	1404	0
Givot Olam Oil	106	-1.9
Glob Pal	927	0.2
Golan	510	0
Gold	448	0
Golden House	361	0
Golden House Bond 1	237	0
Golex	155	0
Granit Bond	141.2	3.1
Granit Bond 2	140.9	2.8
Green Software	272	5
Greenberg	601	5.1
H Electronics	715	0
H.Mor	993	-0.8
Habas	3141	1.3
Habas Bond 1	133	0.4
Hadar 1	27771	0
Hadar 5	67255	0
Hadar Ins. 1	702	0
Hadar Ins. 5	3091	0
Hadarom Bond 1	110	-0.9
Hadarom Warrant1	1050	-0.9
Hagal	354	10.1
Hagal Bond B	150.5	-0.7
Hamakor	404	1.3
Hanal	7.2	0
Hanel Bond A	410	0
Hasen Esh	632	0
Hason	183	0
Hatehot 1	215	2.4
Hatehot Bond A	141.5	0
Hed Arzi Music	404	0
Hevin 1	11043	4.2
Hevin 5	42779	0
HI Service Bond 2	175.5	0
HI Service Bond 3	140.5	-1.1
HI Services	2151	0
Hod	159.5	0
Hot	691	-0.3
Holit	125	0
Hydrolics	153	-0.9
IBS Industries	593	0
IBS Warrant 1	100.5	0
Ilan Gal	185	0
Ilan Gal Bond A	149	0
ILDC Bond 6	250	0
ILDC Hotels	331	0
ILDC Hotels Bond 1	163.5	0
ILDC Hotels Warrant 2	67	0
ILDC Insurance	345	0
ILDC Insurance Bond A	130.5	0
Imco	1370	0
Ind Bld Warrant 3	66	-1.5
Ind Bldg. Rt	45	4.7
Ind.Dev.Bank C	266	0
Ind.Dev.Bank Cc	2660	0.8
Ind.Dev.Bank CC 1	2730	5
Ind.Dev.Bank Pref	1702	0.8
Independence Mort	92976	1.7
Interasyma	738	-10
Interasyma 1	3841	0
Interasyma 5	15436	0
Iscal	1579	1.7
Ispro	3686	0
Isracolor	569	0
Israel Corp. 5	109000	-3.3
Israel Lighterage Bond 3	133.5	0
Israel Wire & Cables Bond C	177	0
Isralom	1379	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Isralom Bond B	257	0
Isralom Bond C	88	-1.1
Isralom Warrant 3	6.3	0
Isramco	3.5	0
Isras 1	5687	0
Isras 3	26099	0
Isras Bond A	244	0
ISTA LINES	2030	0
Jakora Bond A	180	0
Jaysour	173	0
Jaysour Bond A	108	-4.8
JEC Bond B	90.1	-1.4
JEC Warrant 3	0	0
Jerusalem Mort	188	0
Jerusalem Mortgage Bond 16	151.5	-4.7
Jeunesse	30.2	0
JOEL	105.5	-0.9
JOEL Bond 1A	224	-0.4
JOEL Bond 2	120	0
JOEL Bond A	226	0
JOEL Warrant 3	3.6	-2.7
Kadimart	180.5	0
Kadoun	282	3.3
katrice bond b	89	-0.6
katrice warrant 1	89.5	-2.7
Kahn	1200	1.3
Kallkalit Bond A	93.5	0
Kallkalit warrant 2	30.1	0.3
Kamour	572	5
Kamour Bond G	129.5	0
Kamour Warrant H	0	0
Kamsept	1116	-0.4
Kanal Warrant G	1.4	7.7
Kanicel	37.6	9.6
Kanicel Bond A	45.6	0.4
Kardan 1	430	-1.4
Kardan 5	2000	1
Katz	126	0
Katz Bond A	64	0
Kedem Chemicals	3920	-0.3
Kedem Chemicals Bond 2	227	0
Kenaz	558	0
Kesher	789	2.2
Kesher Bond A	144.5	0
Keter	675	0
Kind	18.9	0
Kind Bond A	96.3	0
King	381	0
Kinneret	176.5	0.5
Kirsch Kirur	180.5	0
Kishrei Teuta	570	3
Kital	528	0
Kital Bond A	152	-2.9
Kital Bond A	118	-0.8
Kital Warrant 1	7.2	2.9
Klil Ind. 5	7971	2.2
Koor Bond 5	153.5	-1.2
Kopel	215	-0.5
Kopel Bond 1	232	0
La Nationale Bond A	138	-2.1
La Nationale Pref	86	0
Lachish	5163	0
Lamont	831	0
Lapidot Oil Exploration	1.9	-5
Lapidot Oil Explorers	75	0
Lasers	406	0
Laviav	641	0
Laznick Bldg	500	0
Laznick Comm Ctrs	155.5	-1
Laznick Commercial Centres Bon	123	0
Laznick Ind Bldgs	356	-1.1
Laznick Industrial Bldgs. Bond	137.5	-0.4
Leader Warrant B	136.5	-5.9
Lego	458	0
Leumi Mortgage Bond 164	0	0
Leumi R4	89	40.2
Leventhal	318	0
Levi	620	-10
Levi Bond A	133	-0.4
Levi Bond B	88	-0.6
Levi Warrant 2	85	0
Levinstein Bond A	81	0
Levinstein Warrent 2	389	0
Levinstein	1090	8
Liber	437	0
Lidan	1321	0
Lidar 1	162.5	-2.4
Lidar 5	685	-1
Ligad	744	-0.8
Ligad Bond 1	152.5	-0.7
Lighterage 1	480	2.3
LIMS	255	0
Lipman	2687	-0.3
Lipski	2935	0
Lipski Bond A	167	0.3
Lraz Bond A	161	1.6
Lodan	215	-0.5
Lodzia 1	1356	0
Lodzia 4	4503	0
Luhot Gaal	59	0
Luhot Gaal Bond 1	138.5	0
Lumar	3353	0
Ma'anv	2430	-5.8
Ma'anv Bond A	130	-2
Maabarot	1221	-5
Macpell	1038	-0.5
Macpell Bond A	134.5	-0.4
Macpell Bond B	118	0
Macpell Bond C	77	0.7
Macpell Warrant 3	148.5	-1
Madi	1006	1
Magam	158	0
Magam Bond A	174	0.3
Magam Bond B	123	-0.8
Magav	431	0
Magav Warrant 1	16.2	0
Magma	59.5	-10.2
Magma Warrant 1	1.2	0
Magor 1	2318	0
Magor 5	9748	0
Magor hldgs. Bond B	83.5	0
Magor hldgs. Warrant 2	866	0
Magor hldgs. Warrant A	2.6	0
Malal	340	0
Malal Bond A	0	0
Mali	70	2.2
Malibu 1	892	0
Malibu 5	4360	0.1
Malibu Bond B	173.8	0.1
Malta	980	0
Man	130	-3.7
Man Bond A	229	0
Mantur	98	-2.5
Marathon	98	-3.9
Marathon insured	111.5	0
Mario Lazmick Constr. Bond 1	168	0.5
Mario Lazmick Constr. Bond 2	143.5	-0.7
Maritime Bank	1712	0.7
Maritime Bank Bond A	196.5	0
Maritime Bank Bond B	137.5	-0.4
Maritime Bank Warrant 6	0	0
Mashav	886	0
Mashbir	834	-0.2
Mashov	495	3.2
Mashov	106	0.5
Mashov Marketing Warrant 1	5.3	-10
Mazum	1008	0
Mazav Warrant 1	455	23.8
Mazeva 1	1023	-7.3
Mazeva 5	4171	0
Mazpak	668	1
Med. Hotels	97.5	1
Mediterranean	885	-0.5
Mediterranean Bond A	136.2	0
Mediterranean Bond B	80	-0.6
Mediterranean Warrant 2	244	0
Mediterranean Warrant 3	4.5	7
Mediterranean Hotels Bond A	123.5	-0.4
Megason	57.5	0
Meimad	448	-1.1
Mer Ezra	2400	-2.9
Mer Ezra Bond B	238	0
Melet	438	0
Melisaaron Bond B	0	0
Melisaaron Bond B	87.5	-1.4
Melisaaron Warrant 3	50	-13.2
Mendelson	259	0
Menolim	67.5	0
Menorah Ins. 5	5250	0
Mercazit	504	-2.3
Mercazit Warrant 2	72	2.1
Meritav	98.5	2.1
Meytavit	468	0
Middle East Tube	351	0
Middle East Tube Bond A	108.5	-0.5
Middle East Tube Warrant 2	28	0
Millimor Bond A	153	0
Millomar Bond B	82	0
Millomar Warrant 2	26	0
Mimsar	143	4.9
Mira Line	1.1	-4.5
Mirrav	1456	0
Mirage	225	-0.5
Mirage Bond A	131.5	-0.4
Mirage Warrant 1	43	-4.4
Miromit	50	0
Michmael	13	0
Mishmael Bond B	58	0
Mishor Bond 2	142	-0.4
Mishor Hahof	238	-5.3
Mitsrain	134	3.1
Mivtach Shamir	2640	1.1
Mivtach Shamir	1057	5.5
MM Engineering	166.5	0
MM Engineering Bond A	117.5	-0.4
MM Engineering Warrant 2	0	0
Modigal	166	1.2
Modiin	2.1	0
Moffet	126.5	-1.2
Moffet Convertible Bond AAA	278	0
Molet	215	-9.9
More Plastic Ind	211	0
Mordechovitz	182.5	0
Mormelovitz Warrant 2	1.3	2.3
MTI Computers	445	-5
Mul-T-Lock	299	0
Mula Senter	328	0
Nachshon Fund	50.5	0
Naphtha	47.6	1.1
Naphtha Oil Exp.	24.7	0
Nasour	561	0
NATSVA BOND A	98.9	-0.4
Navigator	296	0
Navigator Property	483	0.4
Nechushtan Bond B	78	0
Nechushtan Prop.	199.5	1.5
Nechushtan Properties Bond A	130.5	0
Nechushtan Warrant 1	21	12.2
Negev Ceramics	225	2.3
Netaustrian 1	751	0
Netaustrian B	3812	0

Hingis beats Davenport to take Evert Cup

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP) — As a 6-year-old, she broke a finger on her right hand, so she played left-handed in a tournament against girls three years older. And won.

Little wonder that 11 years later, Martina Hingis is the top-ranked player in the world.

"She's by far No. 1," Lindsay Davenport said after Hingis beat her 6-3, 6-4 Saturday to win the State Farm Evert Cup. "She just is so dominant, she really is.

"As long as she is playing as well as she is right now, she's going to stay there for a while." Davenport speaks with authority; she's ranked second in the world.

After rain delayed the start of their final for two hours, Hingis breezed through the No. 1 vs. No. 2 matchup.

On one point, Hingis sprinted far to her left, switching the racket from her right hand to her left and drilled the ball crosscourt to keep the rally going.

"When I was around six, I won a tournament for 9s (year olds)," she said. "I had a broken finger and couldn't play with my right hand." She did not win that final left-handed, however.

"The other finalist was just very scared of playing me because she was afraid I would beat her left-handed," Hingis explained. "So after two weeks I was ready to play with my right hand. I beat her."

Asked what compelled her to play left-handed, Hingis grinned and said, "I wouldn't have been able to play. It was just so I could keep playing."

In the Evert Cup final, Hingis dictated play, hammering groundstrokes that sent Davenport scurrying from sideline to sideline.

Hingis won the Australian Open in January and has lost just twice this year, to Venus Williams in Sydney and Davenport in Japan. She avenged both those in the Evert Cup, defeating Williams in the semifinals.

Hingis, playing in her first Evert Cup, breezed through the tournament without losing a set. The title was the 16th career championship for the 17-year-old Swiss star, who came within one title — the French Open — of winning the Grand Slam last year.

Newsweek Champions Cup

In the Newsweek Champions Cup running concurrently at the Hyatt Grand Champions Resort, Greg Rusedski, the new "big boomer" on the men's tour, overwhelmed Thomas Muster with 11 aces — one clocked at a record 149 mph — to win their semifinal 7-6 (7-5), 6-1.

After another two-hour rain delay, Marcelo Rios ended the surprising run of Jan-Michael Gambill, playing in his first ATP Tour semifinal, 7-6 (6-3), 6-3. The rain began with the score tied 6-6 in the first set. When play resumed, Gambill won the first point in the tiebreaker, then Rios took charge by winning six straight points.

Gambill had reached the semifinals by upsetting Mark Philippoussis, Francisco Clavet, Jim Courier and Andre Agassi.

The 6-foot-4 Rusedski, a left-hander who was born in Montreal and lives in London, hit a serve clocked at 146 mph in his quarterfinal victory over Thomas Enqvist. That had bettered his 143-mph mark set at the US Open last year.

In the Champions Cup semifinal, he closed out the 11th game of the first set with a 149 mph ace. Rusedski also had serves clocked at 144, 142 and 140 mph against Muster, whose fastest serve was 122 mph.

Muster, who had ousted top seed Pete Sampras, was slowed by soreness in his right hip flexor muscle, a pain he first felt during his quarterfinal win over Andrei Medvedev on Friday.

"You really have to be ready from the first points," said Rusedski who created an on-court earthquake by rocketing the fastest serve ever recorded.

Ntini named to S. Africa Test squad

EAST LONDON (Reuters) – Makhaya Ntini, the 20-year-old Xhosa fast bowler from East London, could become South Africa's first black Test cricketer when his country play Sri Lanka in Cape Town on Thursday.

Ntini was named in the squad announced by selection convenor Peter Pollock yesterday.

Ntini toured Australia with the national squad between November and January, making his one-day international debut in Perth. His elevation to the Test squad was widely expected after the retirement of Fanie de Villiers at the end of the recent series against Pakistan.

Ntini is one of three changes to the South African squad.

Daryll Cullinan has been recalled to the middle order in place of Andrew Hudson. Cullinan appears to have finally recovered from his much-publicized mauling by Shane Warne in Australia and scored 172 for his province, Gauteng, in the final round of domestic four-day games on Saturday.

The third change is the dropping of veteran off-spinner Pat Symcox in a squad reduced from 13 to 12.

Symcox scored a century in his last test, batting at number 10, and broke the ninth-wicket partnership record with a stand of 195 with wicketkeeper Mark Boucher.

But he was dropped for the second Test against Pakistan in Durban where he was subsequently accused of making racist comments to Asian fans while fielding as 12th man.

A United Cricket Board disciplinary committee delayed its investigation into the incident after Symcox, who turns 38 later this month, sought legal counsel.

Squad: Gary Kirsten, Adam Bacher, Jacques Kallis, H.D. Ackerman, Daryll Cullinan, Hansie Cronje (captain), Shaun Pollock, Mark Boucher, Lance Klusener, Allan Donald, Paul Adams, Makhaya Ntini.

W. Australia to host Sheffield Shield final

Western Australia won the right to host the Sheffield Shield final with a five-wicket victory over defending champions Queensland yesterday.

Western Australia, losing Shield finalists in the past two seasons, will play Tasmania in the five-day final at Perth's WACA Ground, starting on Friday.

Resuming only 59 runs shy of their victory target with nine wickets in hand, Western Australia reached 106 for five on the fourth and final day at the Gabba in Brisbane.

Tasmania finished alongside Western Australia at the top of the Shield table on 40 points from 10 games after defeating Victoria by 120 runs at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

But Western Australia will stage the final because of their superior runs to wickets ratio, giving them a significant advantage.

The final hosts need to only draw the final to lift the Shield trophy.

Tasmania bowler Colin Miller claimed seven for 49 in Victoria's second innings to set a new Shield record for the number of wickets taken in a season.

Newcastle Knights open title defense with NRL win over North Sydney

SYDNEY (Reuters) – Newcastle Knights carried on where they left off last season with an 18-14 away victory over North Sydney in the opening round of the newly unified National Rugby League (NRL) yesterday.

Newcastle, the Australian Rugby League (ARL) champions last season, fought back from eight-nil down to run in three tries to two at North Sydney Oval.

Matthew Johns scored one try and set up two other scores.

The revamped 20-team competition started on Friday, ending a split within the sport which resulted in clubs forming two rival leagues last season.

In other matches yesterday, Canterbury Bulldogs defeated Canberra Raiders 20-10 at home, while St George overwhelmed visitors Western Suburbs 36-18.

A bitter three-year power struggle was finally resolved last December when the establishment ARL and media magnate Rupert Murdoch's breakaway Super League agreed to form the NRL.

Brisbane Broncos, the Super League champions, opened their campaign on Friday with a 22-6 home win over Manly, last season's losing ARL finalists.

North Queensland, South Sydney, Parramatta, Sydney City, Balmain and Melbourne Storm were the other winners over the first weekend of the season.

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Khristlich shines in Bruins win over Rangers

BOSTON (AP) — Dmitri Khristich scored twice and made it his best game as a pro with three assists Saturday on goals by Jason Allison as the Boston Bruins beat the impotent New York Rangers 5-1.

The five-point effort was a career best for Khristich. It was the second three-goal game of Allison's — the other coming Jan. 8 against Phoenix.

Boston had dropped its last two home games and two of three overall.

Penguins 2, Sabres 1

Goalie Tom Barrasso made 37 saves, including two against a two-man disadvantage in the last minute, as Pittsburgh ended Buffalo's road unbeaten streak at eight games.

Martin Straka scored two first-period goals against Olympic teammate Dominik Hasek as the Sabres lost on the road for the first time since a 3-0 defeat at Philadelphia on Jan. 20. The Sabres, one of the NHL's hottest teams at 9-2-5, have struggled in Pittsburgh, going 1-13-2 in their last 16 games.

Flyers 6, Red Wings 1

Alexandre Daigle scored three goals as host Philadelphia ended its eight-game winless streak against the 1997 Stanley Cup winners.

Philadelphia had gone 0-7-1 against the Red Wings, including four straight losses in the Stanley Cup finals in June, since beating Detroit 4-1 on Nov. 25, 1995.

Detroit's most lopsided loss this season was its fourth defeat in five games.

Coyotes 2, Blues 0

Backup goalie Jimmy Waite made 24 saves and Gerald Diduck and Brad Isbister each scored goals to lead Phoenix to a road win.

The loss snapped the Blues' home unbeaten streak at seven games and was only the third time the NHL's highest-scoring team had been shut out this season.

The Coyotes played without leading scorer Keith Tkachuk, out for two weeks with fractured ribs.

Kings 5, Avalanche 2

Sandy Moger scored twice on rebounds during a four-minute span of the second period to break open a scoreless game and Los Angeles Kings went on to a home win. [illegible] as the Kings, who are 14-4-3 in their last 21 games but still trail the first-place Avalanche by 11 points in the Pacific Division.

Stephane Fiset made 29 saves and improved his record against his former team to 5-4-1 despite third-period goals 30 seconds apart by Shean Donovan and Valeri Kamensky.

Lightning 1, Blackhawks 0

Mark Fitzpatrick made 37 saves and Alex Selivanov scored the game's only goal, leading Tampa to a home win, as Chicago was shut out for the second straight game.

Fitzpatrick's first shutout since Nov. 15 was the eighth of his career and first since being traded from Florida to Tampa Bay on Jan. 16.

Chicago's Michal Sykora left the game in the first period following a collision with Tampa Bay's Louie DeBrusk. Sykora was taken by stretcher from the Ice Palace to a hospital with a possible collapsed lung.

Canucks 6, Islanders 2

Todd Bertuzzi, dealt last month to Vancouver in a trade involving the captains of both teams, scored during a three-goal second period as the Canucks won on the road.

Dave Scatchard added two goals and an assist in the first meeting between the teams since the Feb. 6 deal that sent Bertuzzi and Islanders captain Bryan McCabe to Vancouver for longtime Canucks captain Trevor Linden — selected last week as McCabe's replacement.

Senators 4, Capitals 0

Daniel Alfredsson scored two goals and Ron Tugnutt stopped 35 shots for his third shutout in Ottawa's home victory.

The Senators also got goals from Shawn McEachern, his 18th, and Vaclav Prospal, his first since being acquired from the Philadelphia Flyers.

Playing before a sellout crowd of 18,500, Ottawa won its fourth straight game and extended its home unbeaten streak to six games.

The Capitals, who had their three-game winning streak snapped, played with six regulars out of the lineup due to injuries.

Canadiens 4, Devils 2

Mark Recchi scored during a two-man advantage in the third period and host Montreal ended New Jersey's 13-game unbeaten streak.

Recchi, who ended a 12-game goal-less streak dating back to Jan. 29, also scored in the first period as the Canadiens remained unbeaten at home in their last four games (3-0-1).

Brian Savage and Saku Koivu, with an empty-net, short-handed goal with 37 seconds left to play, also scored for Montreal (32-25-8), which ended a nine-game winless run against the Devils dating back to Dec. 6, 1995.

Maple Leafs 2, Flames 1

Mathieu Schneider scored two goals and Felix Potvin stopped 32 shots to lead Toronto to a home win.

Combined with Chicago's 1-0 loss to Tampa Bay earlier in the day, the win put the Leafs just three points behind Blackhawks for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

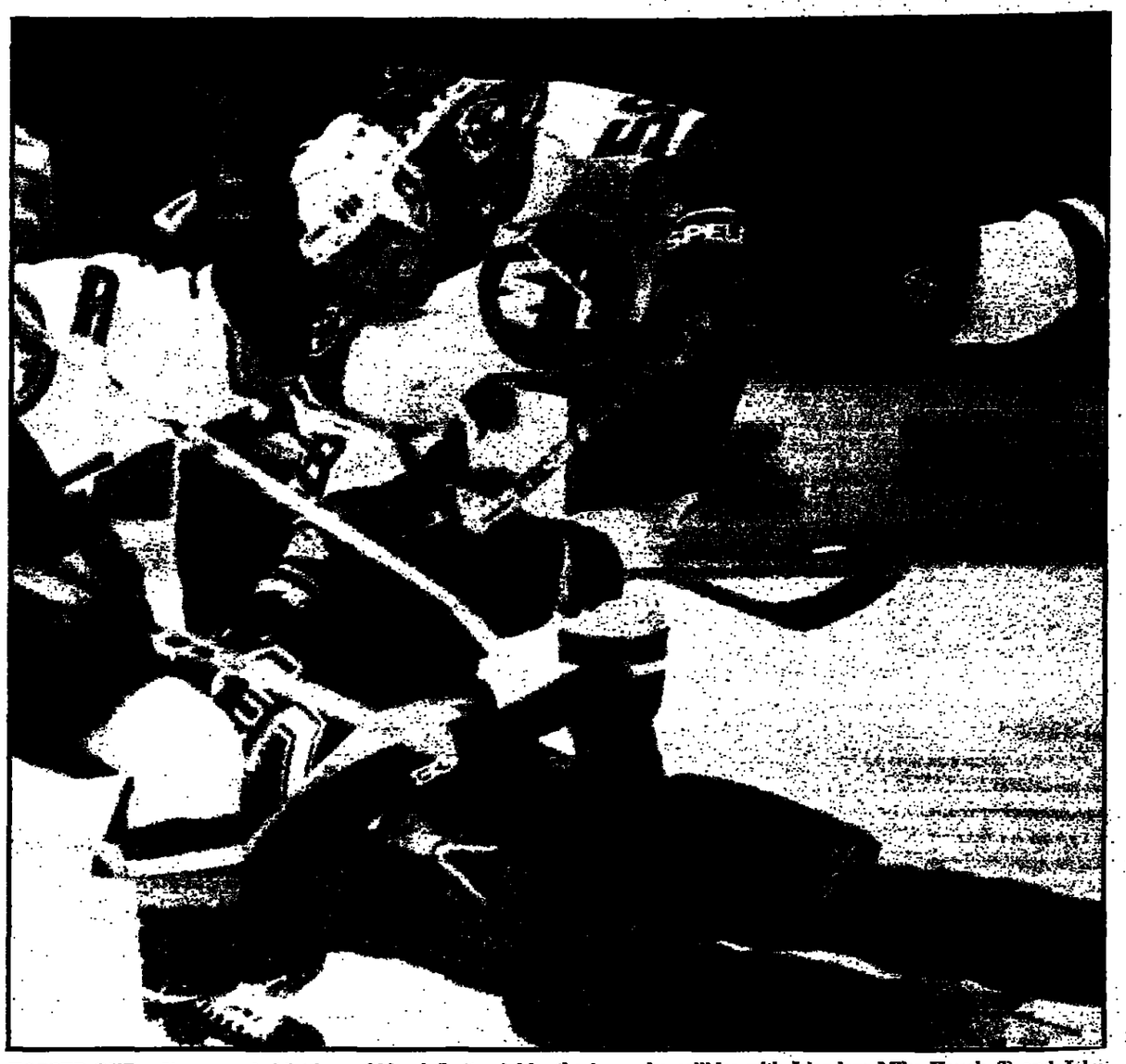
The win was the third in a row for the Leafs.

Sharks 2, Hurricanes 1

Mike Vernon picked up his 324th career victory as San Jose remained in the Western Conference playoff hunt with an away victory.

Vernon, 11th on the NHL career victory list, stopped 14 of 15 Carolina shots in the first period, then 14 the rest of the way — including a breakaway by Keith Primeau with 11 minutes left.

The former Detroit Red Wing has now given up three goals or less in 26 of his last 31 games.



TOPPED OUT – Vancouver's Matthuas Ohlund (bottom) hits the ice as he collides with Islanders Mike Hough (l) and John Namestnikov (top). The visiting Canucks won 6-2. (Reuters)

N.Y. Rangers 0 1 0—1
Boston 2 2 1—5
First Period—1, Boston, Khristich 23 (Bourque, Allison), 3:35 (pp). 2, Boston, Allison 26 (Khristich, Gill), 15:09. Second Period—3, New York, Leetch 16 (Gretzky, Kovalev), 6:37 (pp). 4, Boston, Allison 27 (Samsonov, Khristich), 11:30. 5, Boston, Allison 28 (Khristich, Samsonov), 19:11. Third Period—6, Boston, Khristich 24 (Allison, Ellett), 5:11. Goalies—New York, Richter, Cloutier. Boston, Dafoe. A—17,565.

Buffalo 0 1 0—1
Pittsburgh 2 0 0—2
First Period—1, Pittsburgh, Straka 13 (Jagr, Barnes), 15:04. 2, Pittsburgh, Straka 14 (Wilkinson, Jagr), 19:12 (pp). Second Period—3, Buffalo, Primeau 3 (Audette, Satan), 11:05 (pp). Third Period—None. Goalies—Buffalo, Hasek. Pittsburgh, Barrasso. A—15,529.

Detroit 0 1 0—1
Philadelphia 2 2 2—6
First Period—1, Philadelphia, Daigle 10 (Desjardins, Svoboda), 5:35 (pp). 2, Philadelphia, Daigle 11 (Nilsimaa, Svoboda), 15:10 (pp). Second Period—3, Philadelphia, Brind'Amour 28 (Desjardins), 2:09 (pp). 4, Philadelphia, Richardson 2 (LeClair, Desjardins), 5:04 (pp). 5, Detroit, Yzerman 17 (Lidstrom, Shanahan), 6:29. Third Period—6, Philadelphia, Kidd 11 (pp). Third Period—6, Philadelphia, Kidd 11 (Gratton, LeClair), 1:15.7, Philadelphia, Daigle 12 (LeClair, Svoboda), 4:12. Goalies—Detroit, Osgood, Maracle. Philadelphia, Hextall. A—19,876

Chicago 0 0 0—0
Tampa Bay 0 1 0—1
First Period—None Second Period—1, Tampa Bay, Selivanov 13 (Rubins, Andersson). 9:53.Third Period—None. Goalies—Chicago, Hackett. Tampa Bay, Fitzpatrick. A—14,884

Phoenix 1 0 1—2
St. Louis 0 0 0—0
First Period—1, Phoenix, Diduck 5 (Drake, Janney), 16:47. Second Period—None. Third Period—2, Phoenix, Isbister 8 (Tocchet, Fleming), 12:37. Goalies—Phoenix, Waite. St. Louis, McLennan. A—20,042

Colorado 0 0 2—2
Los Angeles 0 3 2—5
First Period—None. Second Period—1, Los Angeles, Moger 10 (Blake, Ferraro), 9:47. 2, Los Angeles, Moger 11 (Boucher, Vopat), 13:45. 3, Los Angeles, Laperriere 6 (Murray, Tsyplakov), 17:25. Third Period—4, Los Angeles, Tsyplakov 16 (Stumpel, Murray), :44. 5, Los Angeles, Bylsma 3 (Laperriere, Boucher), 5:15. 6, Colorado, Donovan 8 (Odgers, Ozolinsh), 11:26. 7, Colorado, Kamensky 22 (Klemm, Krupp), 11:56. Goalies—Colorado, Roy, Billington. Los Angeles, Fiset. A—15,867

San Jose 1 1 0—2
Carolina 1 0 0—1
First Period—1, Carolina, Kron 15 (Chiasson, Roberts), 3:30 (pp). 2, San Jose, Nolan 11, 8:17. Second Period—3, San Jose, Houlder 6 (Madden, Friesen), 6:49 (pp). Third Period—None. Goalies—San Jose, Vernon. Carolina, Kidd. A—12,911

Vancouver 1 3 2—6
N.Y. Islanders 0 2 0—2
First Period—1, Vancouver, Hedican 2 (May, Burel), 3:38 (pp). Second Period—2, Vancouver, Scatchard 12 (Robertson), 4:15. 3, Vancouver, Aupoin 2 (Scatchard, Noonan), 10:58. 4, Vancouver, Bertuzzi 11 (Zezel, Mogilny), 16:23.5, New York, Czerkawski 4 (Berard, Namestnikov), 18:57 (pp). 6, New York, Palffy 36 (Lindsay), 19:39. Third Period—7, Vancouver, Scatchard 13 (Robertsson), 13:58. 8, Vancouver, Mogilny 12 (Hedican), 18:24 (sh). Goalies—Vancouver, Snow. New York, Salo, Flaherty. Salo. A—14,809.

Washington 0 0 0—0
Ottawa 0 2 2—4
First Period—None. Second Period—1, Ottawa, Alfredsson 13 (Phillips, Yashin), 14:06 (pp). 2, Ottawa, McEachern 18 (Pitlick), 17:02. Third Period—3, Ottawa, Prospal 6, 2:41. 4, Ottawa, Alfredsson 14 (Van Allen, Arvedson), 18:02 (en). Goalies—Washington, Ranford. Ottawa, Tugnutt. A—18,500

New Jersey 0 2 0—2
Montreal 1 1 2—4
First Period—1, Montreal, Brunet 8 (Popovic, Zalapski), 8:22. Second Period—2, New Jersey, Brylin 1 (Bodger, McKay), 6:13. 3, New Jersey, Holik 29 (Andreychuk, McKay), 11:22. 4, Montreal, Savage 23 (Thornton), 19:33. Third Period—5, Montreal, Recchi 28 (Koivu, Brisebois), 1:16 (pp). 6, Montreal, Koivu 13 (Bureau), 19:23 (sh-en). Goalies—New Jersey, Brodeur. Montreal, Theriault. A—21,273.

Calgary 0 0 1—1
Toronto 1 0 1—2
First Period—1, Toronto, Schneider 8 (Modin, Sundin), 4:02. Second Period—None. Third Period—2, Toronto, Schneider 9 (Sullivan), 3:36. 3, Calgary, Morris 8 (Bure, Nylander), 13:52 (pp). Goalies—Calgary, Roloson. Toronto, Potvin. A—15,726.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

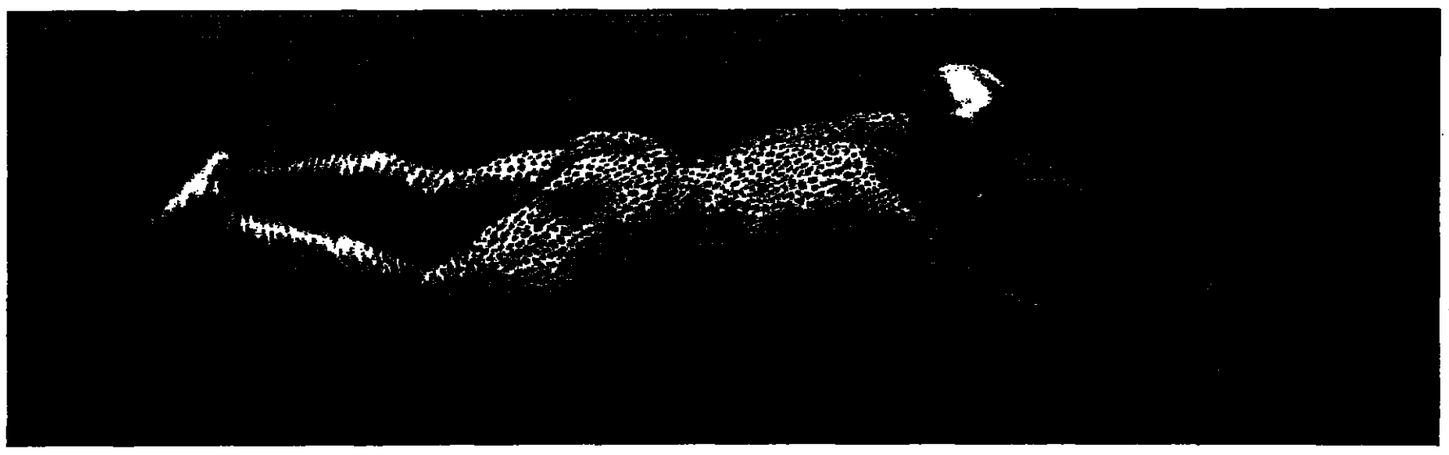
Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	40	17	9	89	188	131
Philadelphia	34	20	10	78	189	147
Washington	29	25	11	69	176	171
N.Y. Rangers	20	29	17	57	162	183
N.Y. Islanders	22	34	9	53	167	184
Florida	18	34	12	48	151	191
Tampa Bay	14	42	9	37	172	248
Montreal	32	25	8	72	190	164
Pittsburgh	34	18	14	82	188	153
Boston	28	24	13	69	170	157
Buffalo	26	23	15	67	160	151
Ottawa	27	28	10	64	152	159
Carolina	25	32	7	57	156	176

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	39	16	10	88	197	132
Detroit	35	19	13	83	198	158
St. Louis	36	24	8	80	202	161
Phoenix	26	28	12	64	188	187
Chicago	24	30	11	59	154	158
Toronto	24	33	8	56	154	184
Pacific Division						
Colorado	34	18	16	84	208	167
Los Angeles	31	23	11	73	190	171
Edmonton	26	30	10	62	170	184
San Jose	26	32	7	59	161	175
Calgary	20	34	12	52	173	202
Anaheim	20	36	9	49	153	202
Vancouver	20	36	11	51	187	234



Cool Cat

Australian rugby union player George Gregan poses as a cheetah for an advertising campaign promoting the sport. (Reuters)

Cavaliers edge Knicks in OT; Wizards end Hornets streak

CLEVELAND (AP) — Shawn Kemp broke out of a scoring slump with 22 points and Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 18 for Cleveland as the Cavaliers beat the New York Knicks 88-85 in overtime Saturday.

Brevin Knight made two free throws with 14.9 seconds left in the extra period to put the Cavaliers ahead by three points.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Miami	44	20	.688	—
New York	35	28	.556	8½
New Jersey	34	31	.523	10½
Washington	34	31	.523	10½
Orlando	32	31	.508	11½
Boston	29	34	.460	14½
Philadelphia	24	39	.381	19½
Central Division				
Chicago	47	17	.734	—
Indiana	44	19	.698	2½
Charlotte	40	24	.625	7
Atlanta	37	25	.597	9
Cleveland	34	30	.531	13
Detroit	29	34	.460	17½
Milwaukee	29	34	.460	17½
Toronto	13	49	.210	33

Wizards 83, Hornets 80

Visiting Washington Wizards halted Charlotte's club-record 10-game winning streak, getting a runner in the lane from Chris Webber with 13 seconds left for the win.

Webber finished with 22 points and 11 rebounds and the Wizards overcame a nearly six-minute stretch without a field goal in the fourth quarter to win for the third time in four games.

Bulls 96, Spurs 86

Michael Jordan scored 30 points, including seven in the last four minutes, as Chicago won on the road.

Nets 108, Mavericks 93

Kerry Kittles scored five of his 20 points during a decisive 10-0 fourth-quarter run and visiting New Jersey snapped its season-high seven-game losing streak.d.

SuperSonics114
Timberwolves 80

Sam Perkins scored 18 points as Seattle rolled to a home win.

Rockets 89, Kings 86 I

Mario Elie's 3-pointer started Houston on a late 8-0 run and Charles Barkley hit three free throws in the final 15 seconds for host Houston.

Nuggets 92, Trail Blazers 82

Host Denver won consecutive games for the first time in more than a year.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-Utah	46	16	.742	—
x-San Antonio	43	21	.672	4
Houston	33	31	.516	14
Minnesota	33	31	.516	14
Vancouver	15	47	.242	31
Dallas	14	50	.219	33
Denver	7	58	.108	40½
Pacific Division				
x-Seattle	48	15	.762	—
x-L.A. Lakers	44	18	.710	3½
Phoenix	42	21	.667	6
Portland	35	27	.565	12½
Sacramento	26	40	.394	23½
Golden State	14	49	.222	34
L.A. Clippers	14	49	.222	34

x-clinched playoff berth.

Minnesota 25 17 18 20—80
Seattle 28 26 27 33—114
MINNESOTA (80) Garnett 6-11 0-0 12, Mitchell 4-8 4-4 12, Roberts 4-8 1-6 9, Marbury 3-9 3-4 10, Peeler 3-13 0-0 6, Porter 6-12 2-2 16, Parks 2-2 0-0 4, Hammonds 1-5 2-2 4, Jordan 0-2 1-4 1, Wheat 2-6 1-1 6. Totals 31-74 14-22 80.
SEATTLE (114) Baker 4-10 2-4 10, Schrempf 4-11 6-8 14, McIlvaine 2-4 0-0 4, Hawkins 6-10 2-2 15, Payton 4-14 2-2 13, Perkins 7-9 1-1 18, Ellis 6-7 1-2 14, Kersey 2-7 1-2 5, Anthony 4-5 1-2 11, Williams 3-4 0-0 6, Zidek 1-2 0-0 3. Totals 43-83 16-23 114.
Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Minnesota 48 (Garnett, Roberts 10), Seattle 50 (Kersey 13). Assists—Minnesota 19 (Garnett, Marbury 5). Seattle 32 (Payton 14). A—17,372

Washington 29 13 23 19—83
Charlotte 18 25 11 26—80
WASHINGTON (83) Webber 10-18 1-4 22, Grant 3-6 0-0 6, Davis 6-7 3-4 15, Strickland 4-14 7-12 15, Gregory 5-14 0-0 12, Wallace 1-2 0-0 2, Murray 0-5 3-3 3, Stackles 3-5 2-4 8, Whitney 0-1 0-0 0, Ham 2-3 0-0 5. Totals 33-72 16-27 83.
CHARLOTTE (80) Mason 8-11 0-1 16, Rice 12-22 1-1 27, Geiger 1-7 1-2 3, Wesley 2-9 1-2 5, Phills 3-8 1-2 7, Divac 3-9 1-2 7, Maxwell 0-2 0-0 0, Reid 4-7 5-6 13, Curry 0-4 2-2 2, Williams 0-1 0-2 0. Totals 33-80 12-20 80.
Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Washington 53 (Davis 15), Charlotte 52 (Geiger 11). Assists—Washington 20 (Strickland 9), Charlotte 20 (Wesley 9). Technical—Divac. A—24,042.

New York 18 25 19 18 7—85
Cleveland 21 22 18 17 10—88
NEW YORK (85) Mills 3-10 8-9 14, Johnson 5-12 2-2 12, Oakley 8-12 2-2 18, Ward 5-12 2-2 15, Houston 7-25 2-4 18, Bowie 1-3 2-2 4, Cummings 1-4 0-0 2, Starks 1-7 0-3 2, H.Williams 0-1 0-0 0, Davis 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 31-85 18-21 85.
CLEVELAND (88) Henderson 3-9 0-0 6, Kemp 7-12 2-12 22, Ilgauskas 7-12 4-5 18, Knight 3-9 4-6 10, Person 4-9 1-2 13, Sura 0-1 0-0 0, Potapenko 1-2 0-0 2, Anderson 7-14 3-4 17, Brooks 0-0 0-0 0, Thomas 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 32-66 20-28 88.
Fouled out—Mills. Rebounds—New York 49 (Oakley 12), Cleveland 54 (Kemp 10). Assists—New York 18 (Ward, Houston 5), Cleveland 23 (Kemp 6). A—20,562.

New Jersey 25 22 25 36—108
Dallas 22 26 24 21—93
NEW JERSEY (108) Gill 4-8 0-2 8, Gatling 8-9 8-10 24, Capo 3-3 0-0 6, Cassell 6-14 5-5 17, Kidds 7-17 3-3 20, Vaughn 2-7 0-0 6, Evans 6-9 1-2 15, Douglas 0-2 0-0 0, Harris 5-7 0-0 11, MacLean 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 42-76 17-22 108.
DALLAS (93) Caballos 8-16 1-3 17, Green 1-2 1-2 3, Anstey 2-10 4-6 8, Finley 9-13 0-0 18, Reeves 5-8 1-3 11, Muursepp 3-7 0-0 6, Davis 5-11 1-2 12, Bradley 6-12 2-4 14, Wells 2-4 0-1 4, Riley 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 41-83 10-21 93.
Fouled out—None. Rebounds—New Jersey 36 (Gatling 7), Dallas 56 (Muursepp 12). Assists—New Jersey 22 (Cassell 10), Dallas 15 (Finley 4). Technicals—Douglas. Dallas coach Nelson. A—14,309

Sacramento 24 24 23 15—86
Houston 19 25 24 21—89
SACRAMENTO (86) Owens 5-10 1-4 11, Williamson 6-14 3-4 15, Thorpe 4-6 2-2 10, Richmond 5-19 5-6 18, A.Johnson 2-5 1-2 6, Funderburke 3-6 2-2 8, Stewart 1-3 0-0 2, Dehere 1-5 3-4 5, Abdul-Wahad 3-7 0-1 8, Hendenckson 2-4 1-1 5. Totals 32-80 16-26 86.
HOUSTON (89) Elie 3-7 3-3 11, Willis 3-6 3-4 9, Olajuwon 7-23 9-10 23, Drexler 7-16 1-3 19, Maloney 1-6 0-0 2, Price 0-4 4-5 4, Barkley 5-7 7-9 17, Bullard 0-2 0-0 0, Rhodes 0-2 0-0 0, E.Johnson 2-6 0-1 4. Totals 28-79 17-35 89.
Fouled out—Owens. Rebounds—Sacramento 56 (Stewart 10), Houston 59 (Olajuwon, Barkley 11). Assists—Sacramento 20 (A.Johnson 6), Houston 17 (Barkley 9). Total fouls—Sacramento 27, Houston 21. Technicals—Sacramento illegal defense 2. A—16,285 (16,285).

Chicago 27 13 28 28—96
San Antonio 17 22 20 27—86
CHICAGO (96) Pippen 5-17 1-2 13, Kukoc 8-16 4-4 21, Rodman 0-3 0-0 0, Jordan 12-22 6-7 30, Harper 5-6 3-3 13, Simpkins 1-2 0-0 2, Kerr 4-9 1-1 10, Buechler 2-2 0-0 4, Wennington 0-1 0-0 0, Burrell 1-4 0-0 3, Kleine 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 38-83 15-17 96.
SAN ANTONIO ( ) Person 3-6 0-0 7, Duncan 7-15 0-0 14, Robinson 13-23 9-13 35, Del Negro 2-4 0-0 5, Johnson 1-8 0-0 2, Jackson 6-11 0-0 15, Williams 2-6 0-0 4, Geary 1-2 2-4 4, Perdue 0-1 0-0 0, Rose 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 35-77 11-17 86.
Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Chicago 52 (Rodman 16), San Antonio 43 (Duncan 12). Assists—Chicago 20 (Pippen 5), San Antonio 16 (Duncan, Robinson, Del Negro 3). Technicals—San Antonio Coach Popovic. A-37,492.

Philadelphia 24 26 28 15—93
Milwaukee 27 24 29 18—89
PHILADELPHIA (93) Smith 12-18 3-5 27, Thomas 3-8 7-8 13, Ratliff 4-12 3-6 11, Iverson 9-19 2-3 20, McKie 0-4 0-0 0, Shaw 5-10 0-0 12, Benjamin 3-4 0-0 6, Snow 1-2 2-2 4. Totals 38-77 17-24 93.
MILWAUKEE (89) Curry 8-13 2-2 18, Hill 0-0 0-0 0, Johnson 2-3 0-0 4, Allen 10-19 2-2 23, Perry 10-14 0-0 21, Gilliam 6-16 4-4 16, Green 0-0 1-2 1, Lang 0-0 0-0 0, Fellis 1-2 1-4 3, Pierce 1-6 1-2 3. Totals 38-73 11-16 89.
Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Philadelphia 47 (Ratliff 11), Milwaukee 39 (Gilliam 8). Assists—Philadelphia 18 (McKie 7), Milwaukee 25 (Johnson, Perry 5). A—16,947

Portland 19 14 24 25—92
Denver 24 15 28 25—92
PORTLAND (92) Wallace 5-11 2-3 12, B.Grant 3-11 0-0 6, Sabonis 7-14 10-14 24, Brunson 3-7 8-8 12, Rider 5-14 1-4 13, Cato 2-5 0-0 4, Williams 0-5 0-0 0, O'Neal 1-3 0-0 2, G.Grant 1-5 0-0 2, Augmon 3-3 1-2 7. Totals 30-78 20-31 92.
DENVER (92) Folson 3-6 2-3 8, L.Ellis 3-12 3-4 9, Garrett 4-9 4-6 12, Goldwire 5-12 2-4 12, Alexander 4-9 4-6 14, Newman 9-15 14-15 33, Wolf 0-2 0-0 0, Battie 1-2 0-0 2, Washington 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 30-72 28-40 92.
Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Portland 59 (Sabonis 12), Denver 53 (L.Ellis 9). Assists—Portland 21 (Brunson 10), Denver 20 (Alexander 9). Technical—Brunson. A—13,514.

NCAA

Continued from Page 24

SATURDAY'S GAMES
EAST

North Carolina 93
Charlotte 83(OT)

"We're obviously thrilled to win this game," said first-year coach Bill Guthridge, who'll lead the Tar Heels to their 16th regional semi-final in 18 years. "I thought it was fantastic. I am very proud of the way we hung in there ... We definitely ducked a bullet today."

UNCC frustrated Tar Heel All-American Antawn Jamison and stayed with the ACC champions the whole way, sending the game to OT when Diego Guevara hit a leaning 3-pointer with 2.9 seconds remaining in regulation.

Michigan St. 63
Princeton 56

At Hartford, Connecticut, Mateen Cleaves had 27 points, nine rebounds and five assists to lead the Spartans (22-7).

Michigan State went on a 7-0 run late in the second half to take a 61-54 lead in the final minute.

Steve Goodrich scored 18 points to lead Princeton (27-2), which had its 20-game winning streak snapped.

Washington 81
Richmond 66

At Washington, Todd MacCulloch had 31 points and 18 rebounds as the Huskies (20-9) advanced past the second round for the first time since 1984.

MacCulloch scored 17 points in the first 10 minutes of the second half, including nine in a row as the Huskies opened a 64-48 lead and coasted.

Jarod Stevenson scored 21 points for 14th-seeded Richmond (23-8).

Connecticut 78, Indiana 68

Richard Hamilton scored 23 points and Khalid El-Amin had 22 points and eight assists as UConn (31-4) tied the school record for victories in a season.

Indiana (20-12) led 49-47 in the second half before a dunk by Jake Voskuhl started a 9-0 UConn run.

Andrae Patterson scored 23 points for the Hoosiers, who were 6-0 in second-round games since the tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1985.

WEST

W Virginia 75, Cincinnati 74

Jarrod West banked in his fifth 3-pointer of the game with eight-tenths of a second to play to lead the 10th-seeded Mountaineers to a 75-74 upset over the Bearcats.

"I shot it as high as I could and God let it fall in," West said.

It was the first time that West Virginia (24-8) had won two NCAA games in a row since 1959, when Jerry West led the Mountaineers to the championship game.

D'Juan Baker seemed to have lifted his team from the edge of disaster for the second consecutive game, before West made his 3.

Baker, whose 3-pointer with 3.6 seconds left gave Cincinnati a 65-62 first-round win over Northern Arizona, hit two of them in the last 1:02. His second one put the Bearcats (27-6) on top 74-72 with 7.1 seconds remaining on the clock.

West then dribbled length of the court before nailing his game-winner.

Utah 75
Arkansas 69

Andre Miller scored a career-high 28 points for the Utes (27-3), who'll meet West Virginia in the regional semis.

Miller had 18 points and hit 8-of-9 free throws in the second half when the Razorbacks (24-9) closed within three points three times.

Derek Hood and Kareem Reid scored 16 points each for Arkansas.

Maryland 67
Illinois 61

Obinna Ekezie, scoreless until the final six minutes of the game, hit a game-tying jumper and six free throws down the stretch for the Terrapins (21-10).

Sarunas Jasikevicius led Maryland with 20 points and Rodney Elliott added 16.

Jerry Gee had 14 points and 13 rebounds for Illinois (23-10).

Arizona 82
Illinois St. 49

Miles Simon and Mike Bibby each scored 19 points as defending national champion Arizona (29-4) reached the round of 16 for the seventh time in the last 11 years.

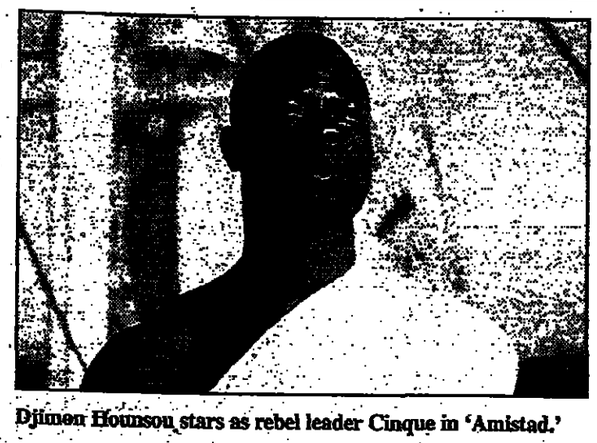
Dan Muller had 17 points for Illinois State (25-6), which has never in its history advanced past the second round in the NCAA tournament.

Arizona forced six turnovers during a 15-0 run early in the second half to break the game open.

CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT



Djimon Hounsou stars as rebel leader Cinque in 'Amistad.'

Violinist Julian Rachlin and pianist Itamar Golan play sonatas by Beethoven, Prokofiev, Franck and Brahms at the Tel Aviv Museum tonight (8:30).

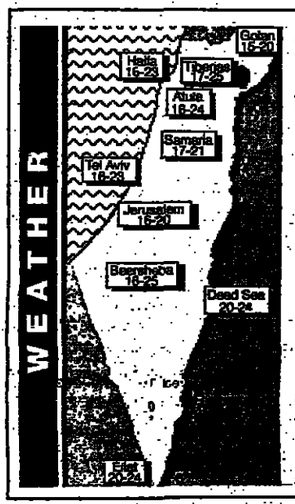
Sergei Hanukaiev leads the Israel Sinfonietta Beersheba in Bach's Third Brandenburg Concerto, Brahms's Violin Concerto (soloist Sinfonietta concertmaster Yaron Prensky) and the Richard Strauss Oboe Concerto (soloist Joel Lifshitz) tonight in Dimona, tomorrow in Kiryat Gat, Wednesday in Ashkelon, and Thursday in Arad (8:30).

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

★★★★ **WAG THE DOG** — It's less than two weeks before the presidential election and the Big He himself has been accused by an underage "firefly girl" of sexual harassment. Ace spin doctor Conrad Bream (Robert DeNiro) is called in by the White House to do something, and fast. So he jets to LA and hires a suntanned and successful Hollywood producer, played with hilarious brio by Dustin Hoffman, to help the Powers that Be distract the public by manufacturing a war against Albania – a war, that is, that will never take place, except where it really counts, on the TV screens of America's voters. Director Barry Levinson's smart-bomb of a political satire manages to be at once extremely funny and deeply disturbing in its portrayal of Washington as the greatest show-biz town on earth. The movie is slight, in its cynical way, but it stings. David Mamet and Hilary Henkin wrote the nimble script. With Anne Heche and Willie Nelson. (Parental guidance strongly advised.)

★★★ **AMISTAD** — Steven Spielberg's latest historical drama opens on a dark and stormy 1839 night, when a group of Africans locked in the cargo hold of a Spanish slave ship break free from their shackles and stage a violent rebellion. After taking control and ordering the surviving crew to steer them back home, they find themselves imprisoned again, this time in an American jail where they're held on charges of murder and piracy. Although there is something troubling about Spielberg's selective notion of history as a series of lusciously photographed triumphs of the human spirit, each set to gushy music by kitschmeister John Williams, *Amistad* achieves its own mild force. In all but a few scenes, the new picture lacks the visceral sweep of *Schindler's List*, which is not necessarily a bad thing. Some of the better moments here come in the form of quiet, almost static exchanges between the characters, with the camera standing still: Anthony Hopkins and Morgan Freeman star. (English, Mende and Spanish dialogue, with Hebrew and English subtitles. Parental guidance very strongly advised.)



AROUND THE WORLD

	Low C	Low F	High C	High F	
Amsterdam	07	45	10	50	cloudy
Beijing	02	36	16	61	cloudy
Berlin	02	36	05	41	cloudy
Boston	00	32	04	39	pcloudy
Buenos Aires	18	64	27	81	clear
Cairo	18	64	33	91	pcloudy
Chicago	-06	21	01	34	cloudy
Copenhagen	-02	28	06	43	clear
Frankfurt	06	43	09	48	cloudy
Geneva	04	39	11	52	clear
Helsinki	-18	00	-07	19	clear
Hong Kong	17	63	19	66	rain
Jo'burg	15	59	28	82	pcloudy
Lisbon	11	52	20	68	clear
London	09	48	11	52	cloudy
Los Angeles	13	55	24	75	clear
Madrid	05	41	19	66	clear
Montreal	-03	27	00	32	cloudy
Moscow	-06	21	00	32	clear
New York	01	34	07	45	clear
Nice	10	50	18	64	pcloudy
Paris	03	48	14	57	pcloudy
Prague	02	36	06	41	cloudy
Rio de Janeiro	23	73	29	84	cloudy
Rome	01	30	13	55	clear
San Francisco	11	52	18	64	clear
Stockholm	-05	21	01	30	cloudy
Sydney	18	66	27	70	?
Tokyo	06	43	12	54	clear
Toronto	-07	19	01	34	clear
Vienna	02	36	09	48	pcloudy
Warsaw	-07	19	01	34	pcloudy
Washington	01	34	14	57	pcloudy
Zurich	-03	27	06	43	cloudy

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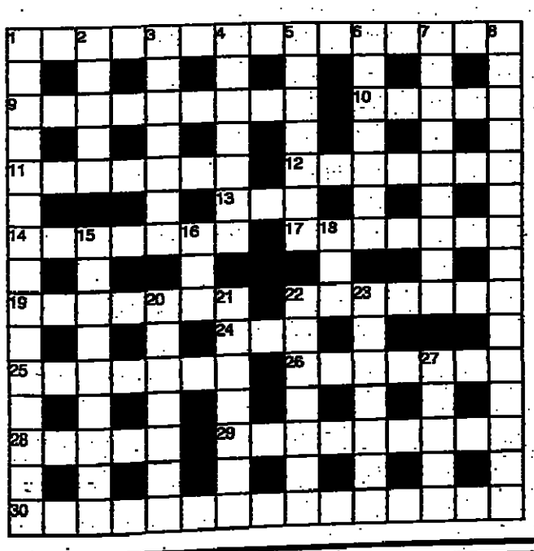
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Cheating trainer out of pre-school instruction (7-8)
9 Enough space in joint apartment (5-4)
10 Broken plate is a bit of a bloomer (5)
11 A redhead attempted to go round despite having been delayed (7)
12 The world of scholars feature a rotter, egghead and me (7)
13 Use a spade to poke one (3)
14 Devious Mac with hard currency (7)
17 Humbug-lotion? (7)
19 Greetin' riotous number (7)
22 Received, having been deceived (5,2)
24 Partially eradicate period of history (3)
25 Public showing by Sarah laying herself bare? (7)
26 Pete's as confused with the money (7)
28 State—or five-sevenths of one (5)
29 Obsessive desire to do light criminal work? (9)
30 One has to last to be first in it (4,2,9)

DOWN

1 Dealt with as muck was handled very badly (7,4,4)
2 A doctor hesitantly becomes yellow (5)
3 Warlike avian? (7)
4 Lady, as you might say, coming from Welsh valley (7)
5 A parliamentarian in a temper to ran riot (7)
6 Fashionable spot that's properly sited (2,5)
7 Usually at sea (2,3,4)
8 Last large payment to come to grips with? (6,9)
15 Despot in a bad state on the other side of the world (9)
16 Mother, first eccentric lady (3)
18 You had a word of agreement (3)
20 Suggest a position for holding the secret police (7)
21 About to fall back into a worse condition (7)
22 Predate arrangement that became smaller at one end (7)
23 Sound soft goat's hair from disputed Asian region (7)
27 Saw music upside down (5)



SOLUTIONS

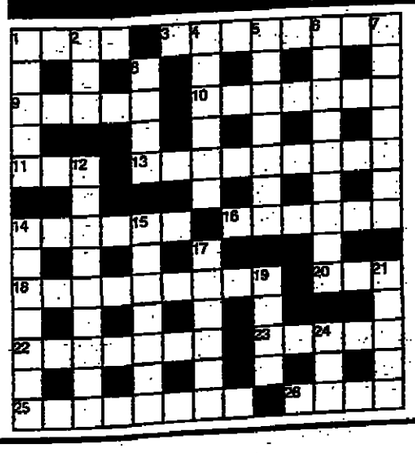


Yesterday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Furze, 4 Trait, 10 Radiant, 11 Chart, 12 Cargo, 13 Listing, 15 Used, 17 Wrist, 19 Liken, 22 Even, 25 Red-tape, 27 Suave, 29 Cello, 30 Unguent, 31 Oscar, 32 State.

DOWN: 2 Under, 3 Zealous, 5 Rocks, 6 Imagine, 7 Price, 8 Stale, 9 Stage, 14 Idle, 16 Step, 18 Riddles, 20 Insight, 21 Brace, 28 Venue, 24 Petty, 26 Aroma, 28 Agent.

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Occident (4)
3 Mountainous district (8)
9 Pale (5)
10 Soldier (7)
11 1ac, 3,9 & 10 eg (3)
13 Old man in pantomime (9)
14 Boggy (6)
16 Cat (6)
18 Coach (9)
20 Churchyard tree (3)
22 City in SW England (7)
23 Truck (5)
25 Persistence (8)
26 Sprightly (4)

DOWN

1 Bowled over (slang) (5)
2 Snowshoe (3)
4 Indent (anag) (6)
5 Aromatic plants (7)
6 Hostile feeling (9)
7 Throw into confusion (7)
8 Ooze (4)
12 Degree (9)
14 Mediaeval trombone (7)
15 Malleable (7)
17 Notecase (6)
19 Hood (4)
21 Nervous (colloq) (5)
24 Space (3)

TV

■ CHANNEL 1 (11)

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

■ EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 Miraculous Revival of Hebrew
8:30 Dites Moi Tout
9:00 Reading
9:25 Society
9:55 English
10:00 Programs for the very young
11:00 History
11:45 Literature
12:15 Sciences
13:15 Medicine Without Mystery
13:30 Animation
15:00 Musical Fantasies: Rodrigo – Concerto de Aranjuez
15:05 No Secrets

■ CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 Super Ben and Zap 1
15:35 Rocky Yarocky
16:00 Mystery Isle
16:25 Super Ben
16:30 Wolves, Witches and Giants
16:59 A New Evening
17:34 Zap
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Sport
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS

19:30 News flash
19:31 Garlic, Pepper and Olive Oil
19:53 Filmed on the Street
20:00 News
20:45 Popolitica
22:10 This Is Your Life – the story of Uri Yarom, one of the Israel Air Force's first helicopter pilots (screened in 1975).
23:00 Boston Common
23:25 Filmed on the Street
23:30 News
00:00 Verse of the Day

■ CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's Programs
5:55 On the Edge of the Shelf
6:00 Yo Yoggy
6:30 Rainbow Children
6:43 This Morning
9:00 Rivka Michaeli
9:55 Lucky Chances
10:50 Dynasty
11:40 Ruth the Galilean
12:35 Bonnie
13:00 Boogies Diner
13:30 Open Cards
14:00 Home and Away
14:30 Tic Tac
15:00 Adams Family
15:28 Major Dad
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
17:00 Five with Reshet
17:30 Third in Entertainment
18:00 The World's Most Dangerous
18:10 Pacific Palisades
19:05 Walker Texas Ranger
20:00 News
20:30 First In Entertainment
22:00 On the Table with Dan Margalit
23:35 Documentary Box
00:00 News
00:10 Code of Silence
1:53 Night Blues
2:39 Anything but Love
3:03 Working Girl
3:27 On the Edge of the Shelf

■ JORDAN TV (31) (unconfirmed)

18:00 Holy Koran
18:10 Peter Rabbit
18:30 Conan the Adventurer
17:00 Thalassa
18:00 Riding High
18:30 Neighbors
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Cinque et Cinque
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Hope and Gloria
20:00 Perspective
20:30 US Billboard
21:10 Marker
22:00 News at Ten
22:30 Law & Order
23:15 Cosmos
23:25 Bay Watch Nights
00:00 Music
00:30 Comedy

■ MIDDLE EAST TV (24/27)

14:00 TV Shop
14:30 Body Electric
15:00 Basic Training
15:30 The 700 Club
16:00 Larry King
17:00 Flying House
17:23 Wishful
17:45 McGee and Me
18:10 Jack Hanna
18:35 Wait Till You Have Kids
19:00 Showbiz
19:30 World News Tonight
20:00 NHL Hockey: LA vs Chicago
23:00 The 700 Club
23:30 CNN

CABLE

■ ITV 3 (33)

Broadcasts after coverage of Knesset sitting
16:00 Cartoons
16:30 Amores
17:30 Panorama
18:00 Wiseman of the Generations
19:00 News in Arabic
19:30 Are You Being Served?
20:00 News
20:45 Frost's Century
21:35 Great Romances of the Century
22:00 Elizabeth R
23:30 Cabaret USA

■ ETV 2 (23)

15:30 Echo Point
16:00 Wonder Why
16:30 Science and Nature
17:00 Happy Family
17:30 Didavision
18:00 Zombit
18:30 Today's Health
19:00 Miraculous Revival of Hebrew
19:30 Vis à Vis
20:00 A New Evening
20:30 A Woman's Angle
21:00 Stories of Honor and Shame – a gripping documentary about the lives of women in Gaza
22:00 Life on the Internet
22:30 News Writing
23:00 Upstairs Downstairs – widely acclaimed BBC series about life at both ends of the social scale.

■ CHANNEL 3

7:00 Good Evening
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas (rpt)
8:00 Sunset Beach
9:00 One Life to Live
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)
10:30 Days of Our Lives
11:15 Dulce Ana (rpt)
12:00 Love Boat
12:45 Hart to Hart
13:30 John Larroquette
14:00 Sunset Beach
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:35 Murphy Brown
16:00 Dulce Ana
16:45 One Life to Live
17:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas
18:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines
18:30 Local Broadcast
19:00 The Young and the Restless
19:40 Beverly Hills 90210
20:25 The Other Half
20:50 Third Rock from the Sun
21:10 Frasier
21:35 Seinfeld
22:00 Yair Lapid at 10
22:30 Seinfeld (rpt)
23:00 Ricki Lake
23:45 Silk Stalkings
00:30 Hart to Hart
1:20 Love Boat

■ MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Price of Vengeance (1993) – two policemen try to gather evidence against a mafia boss. With Dean Stockwell
13:00 New in the Cinema
13:20 Daisies in December (1995) – eloquent British drama about late love. With Jean Simmons, Joss Ackland and Pippa Guard
15:10 Target for Rage (1997) – true story of an unemployed, frustrated young man who blames the high-school teacher who had him kicked out of school for all his failures, and holds the entire school hostage.
16:45 Special report on the film *The Boxer*
17:20 Vanished (1992) – drama based on a novel by Danielle Steel, about a woman haunted by her tragic past
18:50 Twilight of the Golds (1996) – a young couple learn that their unborn son has the genetic characteristics for homosexuality and deliberate an abortion. With Jennifer Beals and Faye Dunaway
20:25 Getting Out (1993) – a young woman just out of prison searches for the baby who was taken away from her and given up for adoption. With Rebecca DeMornay and Ellen Burstyn
22:00 Unlikely Suspects (1996) – a cheerleader turns to the school authorities after being sexually harassed by the captain of the the football team
23:40 Badge of Betrayal (1996) – a young woman who works for the sheriff of a small town quickly discovers her boss is a violent and corrupt man.
1:00 The Next Step (1996) – a dancer agonizes over the choice between starting a family and continuing his Broadway career

■ CHILDREN (6)

6:30 Cartoons
8:40 Adventures in Videoland
8:45 Naftaline
9:15 Honey Bee Hutch
9:35 The Smurfs
10:10 Flying Classroom
10:15 Ninja Turtles
10:40 Flying Classroom
10:55 Underdog Show
11:15 Flying Classroom
11:30 Migou (rpt)
12:00 Flying Classroom
12:20 Animaniacs
12:45 The Arena (rpt)
13:15 Dennis the Mence
13:30 Little Bear
13:40 Make-Believe Closet
14:00 Willy Fogg
14:35 The Smurfs
15:00 Flying Classroom
15:15 Ninja Turtles
15:40 Flying Classroom
15:55 Bruno
16:15 Flying Classroom
16:35 Moesha
16:55 Flying Classroom
17:45 Lois and Clark
18:30 The Arena
19:00 Larger Than Life
19:30 Family Matters
19:50 Married with Children
20:15 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
20:45 Helen and the Boys
21:05 Sweet Valley High
21:30 Beverly Hills 90210

■ SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 Jesus of Nazareth (1977) – part 3 of Franco Zeffirelli's miniseries with Robert Powell, Peter Ustinov, Anne Bancroft and Michael York
00:30 The Terror (1963) – legendary Roger Corman horror film shot in four days, about a Gothic castle where evil deeds are perpetrated. With Boris Karloff, Jack Nicholson, and Sandra Knight

■ CHANNEL 8

6:00 Open University
8:05 The Shape of the World, part 2 (rpt)
9:00 Rites of Passage: Birth (rpt)
9:55 I Berlioz – Tony Palmer's film about the composer
11:25 Henry Purcell's Hail Bright Cecilia
12:15 Luigi Boccherini: Two string quartets
12:50 Two Fat Ladies: Cakes and Baking (rpt)
13:20 Betty's Voyage: Nepal (rpt)
13:50 Babe Businesss
14:50 Investigative Reports with Billie Moskona-Lerman (rpt)
15:15 Maman and Eve
16:15 Human Nature
17:00 Open University
19:05 Two Fat Ladies, part 5: Game
19:35 Betty's Voyage, part 5: Calcutta
20:05 Brave New Babies – on new methods of stimulating unborn babies in order to make them more talented and developed
21:00 Aza Kamavet – personal documentary film by Nili Tal on the murder of Einav Rogel by her jilted boyfriend Gilad Shemen, and the ensuing murder trial
21:55 Investigative Reports with Billie Moskona-Lerman
22:25 Human Nature
23:15 Open University: Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau
00:15 Open University

■ NBC EUROPE (19/10)

6:00 Five Star Adventure
6:30 The Ticket (rpt)
7:00 Europe Today
10:00 European Money Wheel
13:00 Internight (rpt)
14:00 Time and Again
15:00 Flavors of Italy
15:50 VIP (rpt)
16:00 The Today Show
17:00 Gardening by the Yard
17:30 Interiors by Design
18:00 Time and Again
19:00 Europe à la Carte
19:30 VIP
20:00 Europe Tonight
20:30 The Ticket
21:00 Dateline
22:00 NCAA Basketball
23:00 Tonight Show
00:00 Conan O'Brien
1:00 The Ticket (rpt)
1:30 NBC Nightly News
2:00 Tonight Show (rpt)

■ STAR PLUS (18/15)

6:00 Hindi program
7:00 Oprah Winfrey
8:00 Yes, Prime Minister
8:30 LA Law
9:30 Santa Barbara
10:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
11:30 Halifax F.P.
13:00 WWF Shotgun Challenge
14:30 Hindi programs
17:30 Star News
18:00 To The Manor Born
18:30 Heartbeat
19:30 Newstrack
20:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
20:30 Star News (rpt)
21:00 Newhart
21:30 The X-Files
22:30 Fire
23:30 Vegas
00:30 Oprah Winfrey
1:30 Fantasy Island

■ BBC WORLD (13/14)

News on the hour
6:30 Correspondent
7:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
8:00 The World Today
9:30 A Golfer's Travels: South Africa (rpt)
10:30 Correspondent
11:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
12:30 Top Gear (rpt)
13:00 The World Today
14:30 Wild World
15:00 News & Business Report
15:30 The World Today
16:30 Film '98 (rpt)
17:30 Hard Talk
18:30 Style!
19:30 Earth Report: Cameroon (rpt)
20:00 The World Today
21:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
22:30 Science World
23:30 Holiday
00:05 Europe Direct
1:00 World News and Business Report
2:05 USA Direct

■ CNN INTERNATIONAL (12)

News through the day
6:30 Week in the NBA
7:05 CNN This Morning
7:30 Best of Insight
8:00 CNN This Morning
8:30 Managing with Lou Dobbs
9:00 CNN This Morning
9:30 World Sport
10:30 Showbiz This Week
11:00 Impact
12:30 World Sport
13:30 American Edition
13:45 World Report: As They See It
14:30 Pinnacle Europe
15:15 News & Business Asia
16:30 CNN Newsroom
17:30 World Sport
18:30 The Art Club
19:00 Impact
20:45 American Edition
21:30 World Business Today
22:30 Q&A
23:00 News Europe
23:30 Insight
00:00 World Business Today
00:30 World Sport
1:00 World View

■ CHANNEL 5

6:30 Bodies in Motion
16:00 Bodies in Motion
16:30 Five in the Air – Hapoel Holon vs Hapoel Jerusalem
18:15 Israeli National League Soccer
19:00 FILA Basketball live
21:00 Boxing
22:00 English League Soccer Roundup
23:00 NBA Action
23:30 Exciting World of Speed and Beauty

■ EUROSPORT (15/16)

9:30 Rally – from Kenya
10:00 Speed Skating
11:00 Xtreme Sports
11:30 Cycling
12:00 Alpine Skiing
13:30 Nordic Skiing
15:00 Snowboard
15:30 Surfing – World Championships from Indonesia
16:00 Xtreme Sports
17:00 Roller Skating – LA Road Race
18:00 Tractor Pulling
19:00 Biathlon
20:00 Ski Jumping – Norway
21:00 Xtreme Sports
22:00 Tractor Pulling
23:00 Bowling – from Frankfurt
00:00 Eurogoals
1:30 Roller Skating – Paris Super Roller

■ STAR SPORTS (16/15)

6:30 Asian Soccer
7:30 Show Jumping – Volvo Cup
8:30 Indian Sports
9:00 Motorsports
10:00 NBA Basketball – Denver vs Portland
12:00 International Motorsports
13:00 Sport in Action
13:30 International Sports
14:30 Thai Boxing
15:30 Spanish League Soccer
16:00 Cricket – West Indies vs England Test Match
18:05 Soccer – Gillette World Cup
19:30 Cricket – West Indies vs England Test Match
23:30 Cycling
00:00 Soccer – Far East Club Championships

RADIO

■ VOICE OF MUSIC

6:05 Pasquini: Pastorale; Pazzolo: Benedictus for organ (Alessandrini); Weinberg: 6 Preludes for Cello (Feigelson); Cherubini: Chamber Cantata "Spring"; Bloch: 3 Nocturnes (Israel Trio); Strozzi: Toccata and Passacaglia for Harpsichord (Alessandrini)
7:07 Schubert: Symphony no 5 (Dresden SO/Davis); Bliss: Piano Suite
8:05 Krenek: from Lamentatio Jeremiae Prophatae for a cappella Mixed Chorus (Netherlands Chamber Choir/Gronostay); Schoenberg: Quartet no 2 (Ardittl/Upshaw)
9:05 Bach: Goldberg Variations arr. for strings (Europe CO); Bach in Africa - a tribute to Albert Schweitzer; Duke: Suite; Braun: Piano Sonata (Saltzman)
12:00 Light Classical
13:00 Artist of the Week - Henry's Eight. Sibelius: Violin Concerto op 47 (Jerusalem SO/Ronley-Rikiis); Janacek: Concertino for Piano, Two Violins, Viola, Clarinet, Horn and Bassoon
14:06 Encore - Beethoven: Violin Concerto op 61 (Schneiderhan/Berlin PO/Jochum)
15:00 The Romantic Concerto
16:00 Early music
17:00 Emahta – Emanuel Gruber, cello/Amon Erez, piano. Massenet: Elegie; Franck: Sonata in A major; Messiaen: Fifth movement from Le Quatuor pour la fin du Temps; Debussy: Sonata in D major; Faure: selected pieces
19:00 Rainbow of Sounds
20:05 Dvorak: Piano Trio op 90 "Dumky"; Mozart: Symphony no 33 K319 (Vienna PO/Kertesh)
21:00 A Matter of Agreement
23:00 Just Jazz

PRIME TIME TV

	1	2	3	4	6	8
19:30	Garlic, Pepper and Olive Oil Filmed on the Street		Beverly Hills 90210		Family Matters	Betty's Voyage
20:00	News				Married With Children	Brave New Babies
20:30	Popolitica	First In Entertainment	The Other Half	Getting Out	The Fresh Prince of Bel Air	
21:00			Third Rock From the Sun		Helen and the Boys	Aza Kamavet
21:30			Frasier		Sweet Valley High	
22:00		On the Table with Dan Margalit	Seinfeld	Unlikely Suspects	Beverly Hills 90210	Investigative Reports
22:30	This Is Your Life		Yair Lapid Live		Jesus of Nazareth	Human Nature
23:00	Boston Common		Ricki Lake			

MOVIES

JERUSALEM

CINEMATHEQUE Face/Off 5, 9:45 • Farinelli 7:30 • 1998 Happy New Year 7:30 • Pepe Le Moko 9:30 **G.G. GIL** Jerusalem Mall (Malha) ☎ 6788448 Twice Bouskila=Event Horizon 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Kiss the Girls 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Jackal 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Amistad 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Wilde 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Devil's Advocate=The Rainmaker 4:30, 7:15, 10 **JERUSALEM THEATER** Deconstructing Harry 7, 9:30 **RAV CHEN 1-7** ☎ 6792799 Credit Card Reservations ☎ 5794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Ha'oman St., Talpiot As Good As It Gets 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Titanic 5, 8:45 • Seven Years in Tibet 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Good Will Hunting 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • Wag the Dog=I Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 9:45 • The Full Monty 5, 7:30, 9:45 **MEVASSERET ZION G.G. GIL** ☎ 5700868 Twice Bouskila 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • The Rainmaker 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • Lady and the Tramp **SMADAR** ☎ 5618168 Sweet Hereafter 8, 10 • Mrs Dalloway 2, 4

TEL AVIV

GAT Titanic 1:30, 5:15, 9 **GORDON** ☎5236892 Breaking the Waves 4, 7, 10 **G.G. HOD 1–4** ☎ 5226226 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengoff St. Devil's Advocate 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Amistad 4:30, 7:15, 10 • L.A. Confidential 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Rainmaker 4:45, 7:15, 10 **LEV** ☎5288288 Good Will Hunting 11 a.m., 1:45, 4:15, 7, 10 • Ice Storm 12 noon, 7:30, 10 • Sweet Hereafter 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:30, 10 • Ulee's Gold 2:30, 7:45 • Career Girls 2, 5:15 • Mrs Dalloway 12:15, 10 **LEV AVIV** Sweet Hereafter 11 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • Brassed Off 11:15 a.m., 2:30, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 • Ma Vie En Rose 11 a.m., 2:30, 5:45, 7:45, 10 • Mrs Dalloway 5:30, 7:30 • Ice Storm 11:15 a.m., 2:45, 5, 7:30, 10 • Fever Pitch 2:30, 9:45 • Microcosmos 11:3 **LIMOR** ☎6988084 Mrs Brown 6 • My Best Friend's Wedding 8 • Empire of the Senses 9:45 **G.G. PE'ER** ☎5442141 Wilde=Live Flesh=Kiss the Girls 5, 7:30, 10 • The Rainmaker 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Amistad 4:30, 7:15, 10 **RAV-CHEN** ☎ 5282288 Dizengoff Center As Good As It Gets 2, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Wag the Dog 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • A Life Less Ordinary 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Wings of the Dove 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Face/Off 2, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • I Know What You Did Last Summer 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 **RAV-OR 1-5** ☎ 5102574 Opera House The Full Monty=Shall We Dance 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Seven Years in Tibet 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Afula Express 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Titanic 1:45, 5:30, 9:15 **G.G.**

TEL AVIV ☎ 5281181 65 Pinsker St. The Jackal 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Twice Bouskila=Edge of the Horizon 5, 7:30, 10 **TEL AVIV MUSEUM** Love and Death on Long Island 5, 8, 10

HAIFA

CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI ☎ 8325755 Live Flesh=Brassed Off 7:15, 9:15 **CINEMATHEQUE** La Passion de Beatrice 6 • L'atalante 9:30 **MORIAH** ☎8242477 Sweet Hereafter 7:30, 9:30 **ORI** ☎8500056 Event Horizon=Twice Bouskila=The Jackal 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Wilde 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Devil's Advocate 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Amistad 4:30, 7:15, 10 • The Rainmaker 4:45, 7:15, 10 **ORLY** ☎ 8381868 Seven Years in Tibet 6:45, 9:15 **PANORAMA** ☎8382020 Twice Bouskila 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Deconstructing Harry=Kiss the Girls 4:30, 7, 9:450 • Ali Baba=Charlie and Louise **RAV-CHEN** ☎8500055 Wag the Dog 4:45, 7:15, 9:30 • My Best Friend's Wedding 4:45, 7:15, 9:30 • As Good As It Gets 4, 6:45, 9:30 • I Know What You Did Last Summer 4:45, 7:15, 9:30 • A Life Less Ordinary 4:45, 7, 9:30 **RAV-GAT 1-2** ☎ 8674311 Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • Face/Off 4:15, 7, 9:30 **RAV-MOR 1-7** ☎ 8416898 As Good As It Gets 4, 6:45, 9:30 • I Know What You Did Last Summer=The Full Monty 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Wag the Dog 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Good Will Hunting 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • Seven Years in Tibet 4:15, 6:45, 9:30 **RAV-OR 1-3** ☎ 8248553 Good Will Hunting 4:30, 7, 9:30 • The Full Monty 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Shall We Dance 4:30, 7, 9:30

AFULA

RAV CHEN Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • As Good As It Gets 6:45, 9:30 • Twice Bouskila 7:15, 9:30 • Home Alone 3

ARAD

STAR ☎9950904 Twice Bouskila 7:15, 9:45 • Live Flesh 7:15 • The Rainmaker 9:30 • Wilde 7:15, 9:45

ASHDOD

G.G. GIL ☎ 8647202 Devil's Advocate=The Rainmaker 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Kiss the Girls=Event Horizon 5, 7:30, 10 • Amistad 4:30, 7:15, 10 **ORI** ☎8568073 The Jackal 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Twice Bouskila 5, 7:30, 10 • Live Flesh 5, 7:30, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎8661120 Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • I Know What You Did Last Summer=Wag the Dog 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Good Will Hunting 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • As Good As It Gets 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • The Full Monty 7:30, 9:45 • Home Alone 3 5

ASHKELON

G.G. GIL ☎ 6729977 Twice Bouskila 5, 7:30, 10 • Event Horizon 5, 7:30, 10 • Kiss the Girls 5, 7:30, 10 • The Rainmaker 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Amistad 4:30, 7:15, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎6711221 Wag the Dog=The Full Monty=I Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • As Good As It Gets 4:30, 7:15, 9:45

BAT YAM

RAV CHEN ☎5531077 Event Horizon =Wag the Dog=I Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • As Good As It Gets 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Twice Bouskila 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Amistad 7, 9:45

BEERSHEBA

G.G. GIL ☎6440771 The Rainmaker 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Kiss the Girls 5, 7:30, 10 • Devil's Advocate 4:30, 7:15, 10 • The Jackal 4:45, 7:15, 10 **G.G. ORI** ☎6103111 Twice Bouskila=Event Horizon 5, 7:30, 10 • Amistad 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Deconstructing Harry 5, 7:30, 10 • Bean=Tomorrow Never Dies **RAV-NEGEV 1-4** ☎6235278 Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • Wag the Dog 5, 7:30, 9:45 • As Good As It Gets 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Seven Years in Tibet 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 **EILAT**

EILAT CINEMA Titanic 5, 8:45 • As Good As It Gets 5, 7:30, 10 • The Wings of the Dove 7:30, 10 **GIL** ☎6340182 Event Horizon=Twice Bouskila 5, 7:30, 10 • Amistad 4:30, 7:15, 10

HADERA

LEV ☎6343555 Titanic 5, 8:30 • As Good As it Gets 5, 7:15, 10 • Twice Bouskila 5, 7:30, 10 • I Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 10

HERZLIYA

COLONY ☎6902866 As Good As It Gets 5, 7:30, 10 • The Full Monty 5, 7:30, 10 **DANIEL** ☎ 9544044 Wilde 7:30, 10 **STAR** ☎ 9589068 Wag the Dog 7:30, 10 • Twice Bouskila 5, 7:30, 10 • Titanic 5:15, 9 • Home Alone 3 5:15

HOD HASHARON

GIL ☎ 7408591 Titanic 5, 8:45 • Twice Bouskila 5, 7:30, 10 • Amistad=As Good as It Gets 4:30, 7:15, 10

KARMIEL

CINEMA ☎9882521 As Good as It Gets 7, 9:30 • Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • The Full Monty 7:15, 9:30

KFAR SAVA

G.G. GIL ☎7677370 Twice Bouskila 5, 7:30, 10 • As Good As It Gets=Amistad 4:30, 7:15, 10 • The Full Monty=Wag the Dog 5, 7:30, 10 • Event Horizon 5, 7:30, 10 • Titanic 5, 8:45

KIRYAT BIALIK

G.G. GIL Twice Bouskila 5:15, 7, 9:30 • Devil's Advocate 7, 9:30 • Amistad 8:30 • Event Horizon 7, 9:30 • The Full Monty 7, 9:30 • The Jackal=The Rainmaker 7, 9:30 • Titanic 5:30, 9 • Kiss the Girls 7, 9:30

KIRYAT SHMONA

G.G. GIL ☎6905080 Titanic 5, 8:45 • Amistad 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Twice Bouskila 4:30, 7, 9:30 • The Jackal

NAHARIYA

HEICHAL HATARBUT ☎9829933 Starship Troopers Wed. 8:30

UPPER NAZARETH

G.G GIL ☎6561332 Kiss the Girls=The Full Monty 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Event Horizon 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Titanic 5, 8:45 • Amistad 4:15, 7, 9:45 • Twice Bouskila 4:30, 7, 9:30 • As Good As It Gets 4:15, 7, 9:45

NESS ZIONA

G.G. GIL 1-4 ☎ 9404729 Twice Bouskila 5, 7:30, 10 • Amistad 4:30, 7:15, 10 • The Full Monty 5, 7:30, 10 • The Rainmaker 4:45, 7:15, 10

NETANYA

G.G. GIL 1-5 ☎ 8628452 Twice Bouskila=Event Horizon 5, 7:30, 10 • Deconstructing Harry 5, 7:30, 10 • Amistad 4:30, 7:15, 10 • The Rainmaker 4:45, 7:15, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎ 8618570 Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • Wag the Dog 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Good Will Hunting 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • As Good As It Gets 4:30, 7:15, 9:45

OR AKIVA

RAV CHEN ☎ 6262758 Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • As Good As It Gets 6:45, 9:30 • The Full Monty 7:15, 9:30

OR YEHUDA

G.G. GIL 1-4 ☎ 5333292 Th Rainmaker 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Twice Bouskila 5, 7:30, 10 • Amistad 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Kiss the Girls 5, 7:30, 10

PETAH TIKVA

G.G. HECHAL ☎ 9317374 Titanic 5, 8:45 • Seven Years in Tibet 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Event Horizon 5, 7:30, 10 **SIRKIN** ☎ 9087989 Good Will Hunting=The Rainmaker 4:45, 7:15, 10 • As Good As It Gets=Amistad 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Deconstructing Harry 5, 7:30, 10 • Twice Bouskila 5, 7:30, 10

RA'ANANA

PARK ☎ 7711321 Seven Years in Tibet 4:45,

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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Duke beats Cowboys to reach Sweet 16

LEXINGTON (AP) — Four years after Duke's run of final 16 appearances ended, the Blue Devils are in position to start another.

Roshown McLeod scored 22 points and had 10 rebounds yesterday as top-seeded Duke made the big baskets and its free throws to beat Oklahoma State 79-73 in the second round of the South Regional.

The Blue Devils (31-3) are back in the NCAA tournament's final 16 for the first time since 1994, when they completed a run of eight such appearances in nine years.

Duke advances to St. Petersburg, where Friday it will face Syracuse, 56-46 winners over New Mexico.

Eight-seeded Oklahoma State (22-7) trailed the entire second half, falling behind by as many as 11 points, before rallying to get within a basket late in the game.

Joe Adkins, who led the Cowboys with 20 points, hit a pair of free throws that cut it to 69-66 with 3:26 left. But Adrian Peterson, the Cowboys' leading scorer, missed a 3-pointer and a driving layup on consecutive possessions and his last four shots overall as the comeback came up short.

Peterson finished with 14 points on 5-of-16 shooting.

Duke hit 7 of 8 free throws in the final 40 seconds to hold the lead and give coach Mike Krzyzewski his 42nd tournament win, matching Louisville's Denny Crum for third on the all-time list.

Duke once again found itself facing a hostile crowd at Rupp Arena. Fans loudly booed Krzyzewski, who suggested at the start of the week that his team deserved to be somewhere other than Lexington.

Syracuse 56, New Mexico 46

Etan Thomas scored six points during a 15-6 run in the second half that carried Syracuse to a 56-46 victory over cold-shooting New Mexico in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Fourth-seeded New Mexico (24-8) had difficulty penetrating Syracuse's 2-3 zone defense, shooting a season-low 26 percent (14-of-55), including 6-of-25 from 3-point range.

Syracuse's Todd Burgan opened the second half with an alley-oop dunk and 18-foot jumper from the left wing to give the Orangemen a 28-18 lead with 18:45 to go.

New Mexico rallied with a 12-6 run behind Clayton Shields' two 3-pointers and Kenny Thomas' two free throws and short hook shot to close to 34-30 at 14:05.

Twenty seconds later, Jason Hart ignited Syracuse's decisive run with a 3 from the top of the key. Etan Thomas contributed two free throws, a dunk and layup as the Orangemen opened a 49-36 lead with 8:47 left.

New Mexico got no closer than 53-46 on David Gibson two free throws at 2:38.

Kentucky 88, St. Louis 61

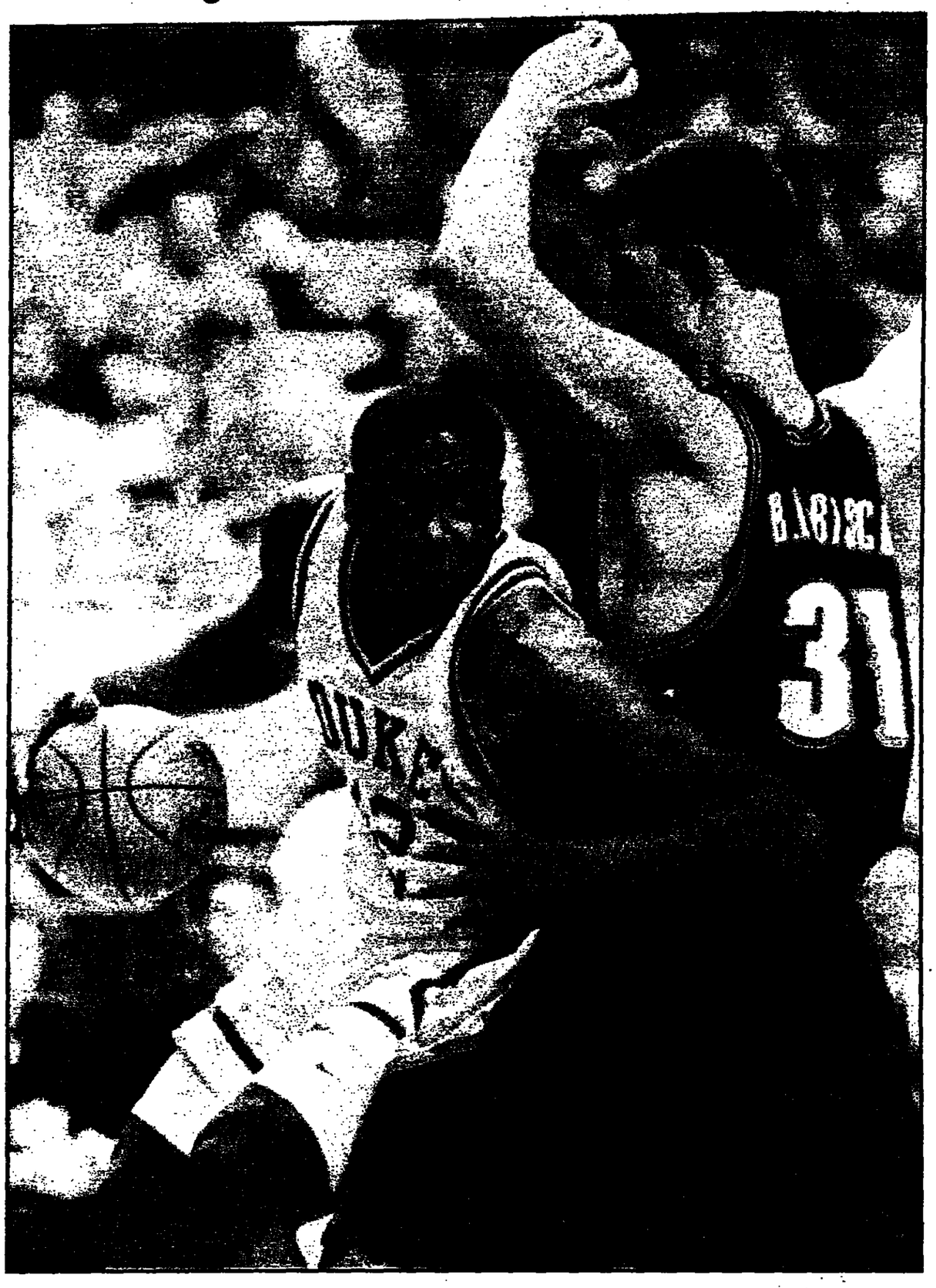
For the first time in four years, the Kentucky Wildcats aren't a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament. It looks like they're taking it personally.

Second-seeded Kentucky extended its month of domination with another double-figure victory, routing No. 10 seed Saint Louis 88-61 in the second round of the South Regional.

The Wildcats (31-4) scored the first 10 points of the game, then destroyed the Billikens (22-11) with a five-minute stretch later in the half that was a thing of beauty.

After Saint Louis cut the deficit to 19-11 on Ryan Luechtefeld's baseline jumper, Kentucky reeled off the next 19 points, showing off every one of its myriad weapons.

In other action yesterday, Stanford beat Western Michigan 83-65 and Valparaiso chalked up an overtime win against Florida State 83-77.



ROUND THE BEND – Duke's Elton Brand (l) fights to get around Oklahoma State's Brett Robisch during first-half action. Duke won 79-73 to reach the Sweet 16. (Reuters)

Windies-England cricket

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (Reuters) – West Indies, needing 375 to win, were 71 without loss at the close of the fourth day of the fifth Test against England yesterday.

Scores: England 403 and 233-3 declared: West Indies 262 and 71-0

Scoreboard at the close of the fourth day of the fifth cricket Test between the West Indies and England at Kensington Oval

England 1st innings	403
West Indies 1st innings	262
England 2nd innings (overnight two without loss)	
Michael Atherton c Williams b Bishop	64
Alec Stewart c Lara b Bishop	48
Mark Butcher c Lambert b Ambrose	26
Nasser Hussain not out	46
Graham Thorpe not out	36
Extras (byes 1, leg-byes 6, no-balls 6)	13
TOTAL (for three wickets declared)	233

Wickets fell at: 101, 128, 173.
Did not bat: Mark Ramprakash, Jack Russell, Dean Headley, Andy Caddick, Angus Fraser, Phil Tufnell.
Bowling: Courtney Walsh 12-1-40-0, Curtly Ambrose 12-4-48-1 (no-balls 4), Carl Hooper 21-5-58-0, Ian Bishop 14-1-51-2 (no-balls 2), Shivnarine Chanderpaul 5-3-13-0, Nixon McLean 7-0-16-0.

West Indies 2nd innings

Clayton Lambert not out	28
Philo Wallace not out	38
Extras (leg-byes 5)	5
TOTAL (without loss)	71

To bat: Brian Lara, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Carl Hooper, Roland Holder, David Williams, Ian Bishop, Curtly Ambrose, Nixon McLean, Courtney Walsh.
Bowling: Andy Caddick 4-0-18-0, Dean Headley 2-0-14-0, Phil Tufnell 7-3-9-0, Angus Fraser 4-0-22-0, Mark Ramprakash 2-1-3-0.

EAST REGIONAL
Second Round
Saturday
At The Hartford Civic Center
North Carolina 93, North Carolina Charlotte 83, OT
Michigan State 63, Princeton 56
At The MCI Center, Washington
Washington 81, Richmond 66
Connecticut 78, Indiana 68
Regional Semifinals
At Greensboro (NC) Coliseum
Thursday, March 19
North Carolina (32-3) vs. Michigan State (22-7)
Connecticut (31-4) vs. Washington (20-9)

SOUTH REGIONAL
Second Round
Yesterday (All times EST)
At Rupp Arena, Lexington, Ky.
Duke (31-3) 79, Oklahoma State (22-7) 73.
Syracuse (26-8) 56, New Mexico (24-8) 46
At The Georgia Dome, Atlanta
Kentucky (3-14) 88, Saint Louis (22-11) 61
Michigan (25-8) vs. UCLA (23-8), 30 minutes after previous game
Regional Semifinals
At Tropicana Field, St. Petersburg, Friday, March 20
Duke vs. Syracuse
Kentucky vs. Michigan-UCLA winner

MIDWEST REGIONAL
Second Round
Yesterday
At The Myriad, Oklahoma City
Valparaiso (23-9) 83, Florida State (18-14) 77.
Kansas (35-3) vs. Rhode Island (23-8), 30 minutes after previous game
At The United Center, Chicago
Stanford (28-4) 83, Western Michigan (21-8) 65
Purdue (27-7) vs. Detroit (25-5), 30 minutes after previous game
Regional Semifinals
At The Kiel Center, St. Louis
Friday, March 20
Kansas-Rhode Island winner vs. Valparaiso
Purdue-Detroit winner vs. Stanford

WEST REGIONAL
Second Round
Saturday
At Arco Arena, Sacramento
Maryland 67, Illinois 61
Arizona 82, Illinois State 49
At BSU Pavilion, Boise, Idaho
West Virginia 75, Cincinnati 74
Utah 75, Arkansas 69
Regional Semifinals
At Arrowhead Pond, Anaheim
Thursday, March 19
Arizona (29-4) vs. Maryland (21-10)
West Virginia (24-8) vs. Utah (27-3)

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Leeds United thrash Derby, 5-0

LONDON (Reuters) – Leeds United mauled Derby 5-0 yesterday to climb above the Rams in the Premier League battle for a UEFA Cup place.

The visitors ran the show from the start, with strikers Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink and Harry Kewell terrorizing the Derby defense.

It completed an impressive double for the Yorkshire side after coming from 3-0 down to win 4-3 when the two teams met at Elland Road in November.

Leeds are fifth with 48 points, 12 points behind leaders Manchester United. Derby have 45 points in seventh place.

Manchester United lost 1-0 to Arsenal on Saturday. The London side are now six points behind but with three games in hand. Liverpool are third, nine points off the pace, after seizing a 3-3 draw with Tottenham.

Leeds' early possession was rewarded in the eighth minute when Derby defender Jacob Laursen, under pressure at the far post, touched Gary Kelly's curling free kick past goalkeeper Mart Poom. The Dane also scored an own-goal in last season's corresponding fixture.

Derby lost Italian midfielder Stefano Eranio with a hamstring injury and Leeds took control.

Hasselbaink escaped down the right on 35 minutes and fed the unmarked Gunnar Halle, who steered his first-time shot across Poom and into the net.

And the visitors, who hit four past Blackburn in midweek, made it three seven minutes later. Alf Inge Haaland was blocked inside the area but the loose ball ran to Lee Bowyer who crashed a shot past Poom.

After a half-time rocket from manager Jim Smith, Derby started the second half purposefully. Paulo Wanchope should have scored seconds after the restart but could not lift his shot over goalkeeper Nigel Martyn.

But Leeds scored their fourth on 58 minutes as Kewell broke through the middle, cut inside a defender and calmly slotted the ball past Poom.

Hasselbaink got his reward with the fifth with 19 minutes to go, running on to a perfect pass from substitute Steve McPhail to comfortably beat Poom.

In Division One action, Charlton and Sunderland drew 1-1. Celtic and Dundee United had the same scoreline in the Scottish Premier Division.

Ra'anana holds on to second place despite loss

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The Sprite National Basketball League playoffs may be a few weeks away, but last night's action was peppered with a playoff-style atmosphere, especially in Eilat, where Maccabi Ra'anana lost the game, 100-99, in overtime but may have won the war for second place.

Brushing off a 56-45 second-half deficit and the loss of center Tomer Steinhauer with five fouls, Ra'anana rode the fine play of Mark Brisker and Paul Thompson to get back into the contest, only to lose in OT when little-used Ariel Gadot hit a three-pointer and another basket to give coach Moshe Weinkrantz's southerners the game.

However, Ra'anana held on to second place thanks to its two-point victory over Eilat in Ra'anana earlier this year, sweetening the loss for Steinhauer & Co.

Elsewhere, Hapoel Jerusalem hung on to an 81-77 away victory at Holon that seriously hurt Holon's chances of remaining in the league; Maccabi Netanya moved a step closer to avoiding relegation with an 84-76 home win over Givat Shmuel; Maccabi Rishon Lezion blasted Maccabi Kiryat Motzkin 94-74; Maccabi Tel Aviv took out its European frustrations on hapless Bnei Herzliya, 115-74; and Hapoel Galil Elyon survived a scare from Maccabi Ramat Gan, 80-74.

Eilat 100, Ra'anana 99 (OT)

No one who made the trip to Eilat came away disappointed from last night's marquee matchup of the two clubs. A hard-fought first half ended up 43-43, a point total duplicated in the second half, which ended 86-86, forcing the overtime, thanks to clutch foul shots down the stretch from Mark Brisker.

Eddie Alisima, who had 22 points for Eilat, was also a major factor down the stretch in forcing overtime.

Jerusalem 81, Holon 77

In a match-up of two teams once built up by accused arms dealer Nahum Manbar, former Holon star Adi Gordon hit one of two clutch free throws in the closing minutes, and Jerusalem used a team game and mistakes by Holon's Steve Hood down the stretch to send Holon (5-15) to the verge of relegation.

Netanya 84, Givat Shmuel 76

Despite trailing 49-43 early in the second half, Maccabi Netanya rallied for an important home victory that improved their situation at the bottom of the standings.

Galil Elyon 80, Ramat Gan 74

Coach David Blatt's club almost lost another chance to stay in the running for one of the top four spots, and were actually down 39-27 at halftime. But a 10-0 run to start the second half brought Galil Elyon roaring back.

Maccabi TA 115, Herzliya 74

Maccabi took the full force of its frustration out on Bnei Herzliya (9-11) behind Borko Radovic, who had 10 points in the opening minutes and ended up with 25. The laugher was accomplished without Randy White, who is nursing an injury and will be lost to the team for two weeks.

Sprite Basketball League

	P	W	L	Pts.
Maccabi Tel Aviv	20	16	4	36
Maccabi Ra'anana	20	14	6	34
Hapoel Eilat	20	14	6	34
Hapoel Jerusalem	20	13	7	33
Galil Elyon	20	12	8	32
Maccabi Rishon	20	12	8	32
Bnei Herzliya	20	9	11	29
Ironi Ramat Gan	20	7	13	27
Kiryat Motzkin	20	7	13	27
Givat Shmuel	20	6	14	26
Maccabi Netanya	20	5	15	25
Hapoel Holon	20	5	15	25

Rafi Cohen back for Israel-Romania friendly

By ORI LEWIS

Rafi Cohen, Israel's first-choice goalkeeper over the past two years, has been recalled to the squad which leaves for Bucharest today, ahead of the friendly international against Romania on Wednesday.

Bnei Yehuda 'keeper Cohen had not played for several weeks until late last month due to injury. He was left out of Israel's last two friendlies, and has been recalled by coach Shlomo Scharf following a successful return to action. Cohen displaces young goalkeeper Sagi Strauss in the 18-man party.

Scharf has kept faith with other players in the successful squads which beat Turkey 4-0 and Poland 2-0 at home last month. From among Israel's "European" players, only Haim Revivo of Spain's Celta Vigo will travel to Bucharest.

"We have proved that even without our 'Europeans' we are able to play well," Scharf told reporters yesterday. "This will be a difficult match, after all, the Romanians are preparing for the World Cup, but even without our (European) 'legionnaires' we will try to win. All national teams try to win every match, regardless of their importance," the coach said.

Israel's squad for Romania: **Goalkeepers:** Rafi Cohen, Nir Davidovich. **Defenders:** Felix Halfon, Amir Shelah, Assi Domb, Ran Ben-Shimon, David Amsalem, Alon Harazi. **Midfield:** Walid Bdir, Jan Talasnikov, Yossi Abuksis, Arik Benado, Najwan Grayev, Haim Revivo. **Strikers:** Eli Abarbanel, Nir Sivilia, Ronnen Harazi, Alon Mizrahi.

Blatter hints he may step down

ZURICH (AP) — FIFA general secretary Joseph Blatter hinted yesterday that he may soon step down as the world soccer authority's top manager.

Blatter is at the center of a furious row over whether he wants to run against Lennart Johansson, president of the European body UEFA, for the FIFA presidency.

In an interview with the *Sonntags Zeitung* newspaper, Blatter said he would announce by the end of March whether he would be a candidate. The deadline for nominations is April 7 and any election would be held on the eve of the World Cup.

Blatter said there was support for him even within the European and African soccer confederations, which are publicly backing Johansson, a 68-year-old Swedish businessman.